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General Report on public Instruction in Assam for the Year 1886-87

Education / Report /

Assam

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GENERAL REPORT ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1886-87.

SECTION I.—General Summary.

The review of the work for the year ending the 31st March 1887 shows a steady progress in the total number of public schools, as also in the number of pupils attending them. In the case of private schools there is a large falling off, which chiefly happened in Sylhet; but this I believe to be only nominal, as the Sub-Inspectors of two of the sub-divisions, being new men, were unable to obtain statistics of many of the elementary *maktabs* which form the bulk of this class of schools. The following comparative table includes every school, both public and private, that furnished returns :-

Class of instruction.			1885-86.		1886-87.	
			Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
		Public Schools.				
School Education General.	Secondary, boys.	High schools	14	3,012	16	3,037
		Middle English	43	3,659	45	4,031
		„ Vernacular	43	3,185	47	3,455
	„ girls		3	87	4	123
	Primary.	For boys	1,624	47,493	1,749	50,906
		„ girls	175	2,798	166	2,895
School Education Special.	Normal schools, boys		12	365	13	382
	Industrial schools		1	22	1	23
	European and Eurasian schools		2	22	1	13
	Law schools		3	39	1	19
	Other schools		1	146	2	92
	Total		1,921	60,828	2,045	64,976
		Private Schools.				
Arabic or Persian			24	435	30	630
Sanskrit			72	1,201	78	1,359
Elementary Vernacular		Boys	31	645	11	291
		Girls	.....	.....	1	14
	Tols	Boys	25	366	1	18
	Maktabs	Boys	343	5,024	115	2,101
		Girls	1	29	.....	.....
Other schools not conforming to Departmental Standard.		Boys	7	95	9	413
	Total		503	7,795	245	4,826
	Grand Total		2,424	68,623	2,290	69,802

Under "Public Schools" there was a gain of 124 schools, or 6·5 per cent., and 4,148 pupils, or 6·8 per cent. The gain was distributed to high schools, 2 unaided schools with 25 pupils, to middle schools, 7 schools with 678 pupils, to primary schools, 116 schools with 3,510 pupils, but under "Special" a loss of one school and 65 pupils. The increase of one normal school is only a change of classification, as in last year's report, the normal school at Nowgong, which is in connection with the Government Middle Vernacular School there, was included in the statistics of that school; in this year's report it has been shown as a separate normal school.

Total number of public schools and pupils.

2. The following statistics of public schools show the progress made in the last few years :—

	Schools.	Pupils.
1882-83	1,502	50,281
1883-84	1,656	56,858
1884-85	1,800	58,755
1885-86	1,921	60,828
1886-87	2,045	64,976

Thus, in five years the number of public schools increased by 543, or 36 per cent., and the pupils by 14,695, or 29 per cent.

3. The following table shows the number of public schools and pupils, together with the average number of pupils to each school for the last three years :—

Comparison of schools and pupils in each district

District.	1884-85.			1885-86.			1886-87.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average per school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average per school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average per school.
Cachar	150	4,633	31	158	4,378	28	141	3,943	28
Sylhet	500	19,096	38	564	20,063	36	658	23,406	36
Goálpára	169	4,468	26	157	4,336	28	169	4,301	25
Kámrúp	272	8,803	32	296	9,086	31	309	9,740	32
Darrang	120	3,812	32	129	3,746	29	132	3,766	29
Nowgong	148	4,893	33	153	5,377	35	156	5,403	35
Sibságar	183	6,332	35	202	6,926	34	216	7,110	33
Lakhimpur	93	2,930	32	95	2,756	29	96	2,879	30
Khási Hills	117	3,098	26	123	3,518	29	131	3,784	29
Gáro "	38	544	14	36	524	15	34	515	15
Nága "	10	146	15	11	119	11	2*	57	29
Manipur	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	...	1	72	72
Total... ...	1,800	58,755	33	1,921	60,828	32	2,045	64,976	32

* Exclusive of those under mission bodies, from whom no returns have been received.

In Cachar there was a loss of 17 schools and 435 pupils, in Goálpára a gain of 12 schools, but a loss of 35 pupils; in the Gáro Hills, a loss of 2 schools and 9 pupils; the loss in the Nága Hills is only nominal, as the missionaries did not send in the necessary statistics; in all other districts there has been progress, which is specially marked in Sylhet.

4. The following statement shows the distribution of the population under the heads "Hindus," "Muhammadans," and "Others," and the number of pupils attending public schools, together with the percentage on the population:—

Classification according to religion

District.	Population.			Number of pupils on 31st March.			Percentage of pupils to population.		
	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Others.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Others.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Others.
Cachar { Plains	140,573	92,393	44,900	1,944	852	1,128	1·38	·92	2·51
Cachar { Hills	34	3	24,839	.....	...	19	...	...	·07
Sylhet	906,326	1,015,531	24,591	16,442	6,308	650	1·81	·62	2·64
Gáro Hills { Plains	6,033	4,135	12,367	.....	...	133	...	...	1·08
Gáro Hills { Hills	.....	.....	85,634	104	41	370	...	...	·43
Goálpára	207,698	104,777	131,617	2,979	732	457	1·43	·70	·35
Kámrúp	403,138	50,452	162,802	8,442	981	317	2·09	1·94	·19
Darrang	159,789	15,504	96,733	3,059	189	524	1·91	1·22	·54
Nowgong	195,365	12,074	102,741	4,536	322	545	2·32	2·67	·53
Sibságar	311,147	15,665	34,454	6,278	547	285	2·02	3·49	·83
Lakhimpur	128,443	5,824	43,091	2,111	127	641	1·64	2·18	1·49
Khási and Jaintia Hills.....	2,344	570	163,226	204	32	3,548	8·70	5·61	2·17
Nága Hills { Civil and Military ...	320	94	878	39	5	13	12·19	5·32	·91
Nága Hills { Hill tribes	.....	.....	93,000						
Manipur	.....	.....	.....	52	20	...	*	...	...
Total.....	2,488,210	1,317,022	1,020,513	46,190	10,156	8,630	1·86	·77	·85
Total for last year ...	2,488,210	1,317,022	1,020,513	42,991	9,463	8,374	1·73	·72	·82

* Manipur is not included in the calculation of percentages.

This shows a general increase, which is most marked in the case of Hindus. The increase of 693 Muhammadan children is encouraging, and the percentage of Muhammadans (·77) is the highest ever reached in the Province. With the exception of Cachar, Sylhet, and Goálpára, the percentage of Muhammadans and Hindus is nearly equal; in these districts the social position of the Muhammadans is much below that of Hindus, and I believe if a census of the social position of the parents of children attending school in these

districts was taken, that it would turn out that for the same grades of society Hindus and Muhammadans stand much on a par.

Percentage of pupils in public schools on children of a school going age.

5. In the subjoined table the number of boys and girls of a school-going age has been taken as 15 per cent. of the male and female population:—

District	Males of school-going age.	Females of school-going age.	Pupils actually at school. Males.	Pupils actually at school. Females.	Percentage of males and females at school to males and females of a school-going age. Males.	Percentage of males and females at school to males and females of a school-going age. Females.
Cachar (including Hill tracts)	25,040	22,038	3,782	162	15·10	74
Sylhet	149,968	145,384	21,276	2,130	14·19	1 47
Gáro Hills	8,393	8,040	471	44	5 61	·55
Khási and Jaintia Hills	12,081	13,323	2,690	1,094	22 27	8 21
Goálpára	34,372	32,562	4,009	292	11·66	·90
Kámrúp	49,359	47,385	9,214	526	18 67	1 11
Darrang	21 363	19,637	3,614	152	16·91	·77
Nowgong	24,072	22,515	5,203	200	21·61	·89
Sibságar	29,279	26,262	6,612	498	22·58	1·90
Lakhimpur	11,450	12,534	2,793	86	19·33	68
Nága Hills (Civil, Military, and Hill tracts)	7,178	6,979	57	.....	·79	...
Manipur	.....	.....	72*	.....	.....	...
Total	375,555	356,659	59,793	5,184	15 90	1·45
Total for last year	375,555	356,659	56,217	4,611	14 97	1 29

* Manipur not included in calculation of percentages.

Comparing with last year, we find an improvement to boys ·93 per cent., to girls ·16 per cent., total 1·09 per cent. The order in which the districts stand as regards the proportion of children under education is, the Khási and Jaintia Hills with 30·48 per cent., Sibságar with 24·48 per cent., Nowgong with 22·50 per cent., Lakhimpur with 20·01 per cent, Kámrúp with 19·78 per cent., Darrang with 17·68 per cent., Cachar with 15·84 per cent., Sylhet with 15·66 per cent., and the Gáro Hills with 6·16 per cent., precisely the same order they held in the preceding year.

Summary for public schools, general.

6. The following table gives the principal particulars for all public schools, boys and girls, for general education:—

Class of schools.	Number of schools.	Average roll number monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Percentage of attendance on average roll number.	Average yearly cost of educating each pupil. To the Government.	Average yearly cost of educating each pupil. Total.	Percentage of State cost on total cost of each class of schools.
					Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	
High Schools.							
Departmental	10	2,138	1,788	83·6	11 1 8	26 4 3	47·34
Aided	3	383	314	81·9	8 1 5	25 13 6	28·83
Unaided	3	545	423	77·6	.....	16 1 11	.....
Total	16	3,066	2,525	82·1	10 10 10	21 6 0	.....
Total for preceding year	14	2,860	2,373	82·8	9 13 2	22 13 7	.....
Middle English.							
Departmental	3	230	191	83·0	10 11 8	18 11 0	57·42
Aided	29	2,326	1,748	75·2	50 3	13 4 9	41·95
Unaided	13	1,116	828	74·2	0 4 4	8 7 5	.....
Total	45	3,672	2,767	75·4	4 4 7	12 2 8	.....
Total for preceding year	43	3,328	2,543	76·4	4 8 0	13 10 6	.....

Class of schools.	Number of schools.	Average roll number, monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Percentage of attendance on average roll number.	Average yearly cost of educating each pupil. To the Government.	Average yearly cost of educating each pupil. Total.	Percentage of State cost on total cost of each of school.
MIDDLE VERNACULAR.					Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	
Departmental	16	1,278	1,040	81·4	6 14 6	10 10 0	65·01
Aided	33	1,777	1,363	76·7	4 6 6	9 4 1	47·62
Unaided	2	152	111	73·0	.....	6 6 6	.....
Total	51	3,207	2,514	78·4	5 3 1	9 10 8	.....
Total for preceding year	46	3,060	2,445	79·9	5 5 4	9 14 6	.....
UPPER PRIMARY.							
Local Fund	18	715	542	75·8	2 13 6	4 3 1	67·78
Aided	89	3,292	2,433	73·9	3 1 11	5 10 7	55·12
Unaided	4	214	173	80·8	.....	2 3 11	.....
Total	111	4,221	3,148	74·6	2 14 8	5 3 10	.....
Total for preceding year	101	3,977	2,912	73·2	2 13 4	5 2 7	.....
LOWER PRIMARY.							
Departmental	23	363	260	71·6	3 4 0	3 14 0	83·86
Local Fund	1,329	34,471	24,577	71·3	2 5 7	2 12 3	84·92
Aided	372	9,523	6,919	72·7	1 4 7	3 6 10	37·51
Unaided	80	1,780	1,492	83·8	.....	0 6 6	.....
Total	1,804	46,137	33,248	72·1	2 0 9	2 13 2	.....
Total for preceding year	1,698	42,720	31,434	73·6	2 0 11	2 14 0	.....

In high and middle schools the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the roll shows a slight falling off, due to the aided and unaided schools. In upper primary schools, the percentage of daily attendance is slightly better than in the preceding year, due wholly to aided schools, the percentage in Local Board and unaided schools showing slight decreases. In lower primaries there is also a decrease in Departmental and Local Board schools, but a slight improvement in aided and unaided. The high percentage, 83·8, in unaided schools is remarkable. The explanation is that most of these are expectant schools, started just before the close of the financial year, and that the teacher spares no pains to show a good attendance in order to get a grant in the beginning of the following year. I also find that when a school is first started, while the novelty lasts, that children attend much more regularly than they do later on. The following compares the percentage of daily attendance on the average roll number for Assam for the year under report with that for Bengal for the year 1885-86:—

	High schools.	Middle English.	Middle Vernacular.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
Assam, 1886-87	82·4	75·4	78·4	74·6	72·1
Bengal 1885-86	81·4	78·1	77·	81·8	82·8

For secondary schools the attendance in Assam and Bengal is practically the same, but in primary schools the attendance is very much better in Bengal than in Assam. In Bengal, the average number of pupils in an upper and lower primary school is 33 and 18, against 38 and 25 respectively in Assam. This seems to point out that schools in Assam are much more scattered than in Bengal, two schools in Assam having to do the work of, say, three schools in Bengal, and drawing their pupils from the surrounding

villages. Thus, in the time of high floods or bad weather, the pupils from outlying villages do not attend regularly. This, I believe, is the explanation of the difference.

Gross expenditure for five years.

7. The following statement shows the gross expenditure on education for the last five years :—

	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
From Provincial ...	1,35,595	1,49,910	1,67,842	1,39,366	1,42,610
„ Local Rates Funds ...	92,900	1,21,507	1,36,666	1,51,779	1,55,187
„ Municipal Funds ...	1,019	3,772	3,791	4,392	4,702
Other sources ...	1,19,712	1,36,386	1,48,763	1,52,968	1,55,417
Total ...	3,49,226	4,11,575	4,57,062	4,48,505*	4,57,916

In this table provincial expenditure is the net charge, *i.e.*, the total amount drawn from the treasury, less the receipts under the heads for which this expenditure was incurred ; the receipts on this head were paid into the treasury, and pass through the Account Department. The expenditures from Local Rates and Municipal Funds are the actuals, as the receipts in these cases are retained by the several schools as part of their income. Under the head Local Rates is included Rs. 4,675 spent on original works and repairs to departmental school buildings. This sum was debited to the Public Works budget, local; hence the expenditure from Local Rates in the above does not agree with that shown in paragraph 9.

The details of the expenditure from other sources are as follows:—

	1885-86.	1886-87.
	Rs.	Rs.
Goálpára Trust Fund	562	564
Williamson's „	6,611	3,005
Mohsin „	774	748
Vizianagram Scholarship Fund	74	(*a*)
Contributions by Welsh Mission, Khási and Jaintia Hills	20,721	22,316
„ „ American Mission, Gáro Hills ...	2,462	2,345
„ „ „ Nága „ ...	407	(*b*)
„ „ other people	5,898	11,155
Subscriptions	22,906	22,713
Sale proceeds, Book Department	222	116
Fees in Assam schools	92,331	90,342
Examination fees and fines for transfer of scholarships in Assam.		827
Fees in Calcutta University...		1,286
	1,52,968	1,55,417

(*a*) No scholarship awarded.
(*b*) Returns not received.

The large expenditure from the Williamson Fund in 1885-86 was due to Rs. 3,400, spent on the repairs of the Golághát school-house. The large increase of expenditure under contributions from "Other people" was incurred by the people of the district of Sylhet in building school-houses, and supporting secondary schools. For the current year, I have separated the expenditure under fees, that against the Calcutta University being the figures supplied by the Registrar as the proportionate expenditure on Assam candidates at the several University examinations. The receipts under this head came to Rs. 1,470, the balance being credited to the University.

Provincial budget and expenditure.

8. The following statement compares with the Provincial Budget Estimate the actual expenditure as shown by the Comptroller's preliminary statement:—

Heads of charge.	Sanctioned budget estimate.	Expenditure shown by Comptroller's preliminary statement.
	Rs.	Rs.
Direction and inspection	52,000	45,413
High Schools	58,300	55,162
Middle „	20,120	18,198
Normal „	13,300	12,586
Scholarships in Assam	7,700	9,039
Grants for the encouragement of literature ...	2,000	326
Grants-in-aid	21,400	21,492
Miscellaneous	8,180	2,797
Total	1,83,000	1,65,013

* The difference of Rs 4,215 between this figure and that in paragraph 3 of last year's report is due to a mistake in the figure for 1885 86 The corresponding correction is made in the expenditure from other sources, and all subsequent tables

The expenditure as shown by the Comptroller agrees in the total and all details with that kept in this office. The figures in the above do not agree with those in the tabular statements in the body of the report for the several classes of schools, as it includes all expenditure, the others only direct. The expenditure on scholarships does not include that on junior and senior scholarships, the medical scholarship held in the Dacca Medical School, and middle scholarships held in Bengal, the payment for which is arranged for in the interprovincial adjustments. The expenditure on this head came to Rs. 16,219, and is included in the table in paragraph 7.

Local budgets and expenditure.

9. The following statement shows the Local Fund Budget Estimates for Education and the expenditure as returned by the Local Boards, an abstract of expenditure compiled from General Table IV. of the prescribed statements, and an abstract from the Account Department's preliminary statement:—

Heads.	Cachar.		Sylhet.		Goálpára.		Kámrúp.	
	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Inspection	1,192	749	2,007	1,620	1,655	1,361	2,628	2,549
Stipends to normal schools and teachers' pay	1,900	2,555	1,200	973	948	326	900	597
Primary scholarship for boys and girls	1,128	969	2,185	1,439	864	696	2,100	1,801
Grants to lower primary	9,340	8,059	22,906	22,666	9,262	7,255	15,328	15,585
" to upper "	960	763	4,512	3,854	1,800	2,153	1,560	1,462
" to middle	732	630	9,480	8,663	3,456	3,336	1,644	1,544
" to special	.....	19	50	1,491	.....	125	.....	.....
" to hill tribes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
High	.....	.....	1,440	1,988	.....	.....	1,740	1,739
Miscellaneous	1,918	836	3,756	849	416	229	591	628
Total	17,170	14,580	47,536	43,543	18,401	15,481	26,551	25,905
Expenditure as shown in Table IV.	.....	14,710	.....	43,539	.....	16,016	.....	27,267
Expenditure as shown, by the Comptroller's preliminary accounts	.....	14,646	.....	42,583	.....	15,482	.....	25,957

Heads.	Darrang.		Nowgong.		Sibságar.		Lakhimpur.		Total.	
	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Inspection	1,193	944	992	945	2,986	2,497	1,960	1,962	14,613	12,527
Stipends to normal schools and teachers' pay	1,997	1,482	600	405	744	558	660	615	8,949	7,511
Primary scholarships for boys and girls	864	859	720	600	1,728	1,323	720	584	10,369	8,272
Grants to lower primary	5,646	5,272	8,268	8,518	10,424	10,059	5,140	4,868	86,314	82,281
" to upper "	840	653	1,320	1,281	1,560	1,344	840	680	13,392	12,190
" to middle	1,236	1,291	948	933	1,560	1,235	1,260	1,190	20,316	18,822
" to special	100	...	900	358	...	438	...	...	1,050	2,431
" to hill tribes	...	...	...	618	...	...	...	...	.....	618
High	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,180	3,727
Miscellaneous	533	...	502	116	2,612	195	302	273	10,630	3,126
Total	12,409	510,01	14,250	13,774	21,614	17,649	10,882	10,172	1,68,813	1,51,605
Expenditure as shown in Table IV.	...	10,498	...	14,153	...	17,785	...	11,219	.....	1,55,187
Expenditure as shown by the Comptroller's preliminary accounts	...	10,779	...	13,829	...	18,509	...	10,065	.....	1,51,871

The figures used in the report are those entered in General Table IV. of the prescribed statements. They include Rs. 4,675 spent on Government school buildings by the Public Works Department, the details of which are as follows:—in Cachar Rs. 275; in Sylhet Rs. 863; in Goálpára Rs. 535; in Kámrúp Rs. 1,112; in Darrang Rs. 197; in Nowgong Rs. 381; in Sibságar Rs. 136, and in Lakhimpur Rs. 1,176. This expenditure is debited to the Public Works Department's Local Budget, and hence the expenditure as shown by the Local Boards and the Controlling Department should differ from that in General Table IV. by this amount, *viz.*, Rs. 4,675. The gross expenditure as shown by Local Boards from educational budgets differs from the preliminary statement of the Controlling Department by Rs. 266, and from that in General Table IV. by Rs. 3,582, instead of by Rs. 4,675. As none of these accounts pass through this office, the discrepancies cannot be reconciled.

Direct expenditure per head of population for each district.

10. In the following statement, indirect expenditure, *i.e.*, the expenditure under the heads University, Direction and inspection, Buildings, Special grants, General Miscellaneous, and Scholarships held in Bengal colleges and technical schools, which came to Rs. 95,809, as also the receipts under these heads, have been excluded; but scholarships held in Assam schools have been included, as the expenditure on these forms a direct expenditure in each district. The details of Rs. 95,809 are given in General Table IV. of the prescribed forms.

District.	Area in square miles.	Population.	People to a square mile.	Number of schools.	Number of pupils.	Square miles to a school.	People to a school.
Cachar — Plains	1,285	289,425	225	140	3,924	9	2,067
Cachar — Hill tracts	2,465	24,433	10	1	19	2,465	24,433
Sylhet	5,440	1,969,009	362	658	23,406	8	2,992
Gáro Hills — Plains	473	23,914	51	6	133	79	3,986
Gáro Hills — Hills	3,180	85,634	27	34	515	94	2,519
Goálpára	3,897	446,232	114	163	4,168	24	2,738
Kámrúp	3,631	644,960	178	309	9,740	12	2,087
Darrang	3,418	273,333	80	132	3,766	26	2,071
Nowgong	3,417	310,579	91	156	5,403	22	1,991
Sibságar	2,855	370,274	130	216	7,110	13	1,714
Lakhimpur	3,723	179,893	48	96	2,879	39	1,874
Khási and Jaintia Hills	6,157	169,360	27	131	3,784	47	1,293
Nága Hills — Civil and Military; Hill tracts	6,400	1,380; 93,000	15	2	57	3,200	47,190
Manipur*	8,000	221,070	27	1	72	8,000	221,070
Total	46,341	4,881,426	105	2,044	64,904	23	2,388
Total for 1885-86	46,341	4,881,426	105	1,921	60,828	24	2,541

* Manipur has been excluded from the totals, as education in Manipur does not form part of our educational system. Under special circumstances aid was given to one middle English school.

District.	Average number of pupils to a school.	People to each pupil.	Direct expenditure.		Direct expenditure per head of population.	
			Net expenditure to the Government.	Other sources.	To Government.	Other sources.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Cachar { Plains	28	74	17,412	5,206	0 1 0	0 0 3
Cachar { Hill tracts	19	1,286	742	.....	0 0 6	.....
Sylhet	36	84	47,150	49,547	0 0 5	0 0 5
Gáro Hills { Plains	22	180	278	201	0 0 2	0 0 2
Gáro Hills { Hills	15	166	2,877	1,881	0 0 6	0 0 4
Goálpára	25	107	17,155	12,211	0 0 7	0 0 5
Kámrúp	32	66	32,901	17,257	0 0 10	0 0 5
Darrang	29	73	16,989	5,322	0 1 0	0 0 4
Nowgong	35	57	17,319	5,964	0 0 11	0 0 4
Sibságar	33	52	20,240	16,060	0 0 10	0 0 8
Lakhimpur	30	62	12,897	7,838	0 1 2	0 0 8
Khási and Jaintia Hills	29	45	20,954	30,920	0 2 0	0 2 11
Nága Hills { Civil and Military / Hill tracts	29	1,656	2,050	.....	0 0 4	.....
Manipur*	72	3,070	464	272	.....	.....
Total	32	75	2,08,964	1,52,407	0 0 8	0 0 6
Total for 1885-86	32	80	1,97,460	1,42,896	0 0 8	0 0 6

*Manipur has been excluded from the totals, as education in Manipur does not form part of our educational system. Under special circumstances aid was given to one middle English school.

Manipur has been excluded from the totals and averages, as Assam does not undertake education there. There is only one aided middle English school in Manipur. On the whole, there is a slight improvement over the preceding year, there being a school to every 2,388 persons, instead of to 2,541, and out of every 75 persons one attends school, against one out of 80 in 1885-86. The direct expenditure per head of population remains at the same figure as in the preceding year.

Comparison of total expenditure in different Provinces.

11. The following table contrasts the gross expenditure from the State and all other sources per head of population for Assam with that for other provinces:—

Province.	Area in square miles.	Population.	People to a square mile.	Number of schools.	Number of pupils.	Square miles to a school.	People to a school.	Average number of pupils to a school.	People to each pupil.	Expenditure.		Expenditure per head of population.	
										Net expenditure to the State.	Other sources.	To the State.	Other sources.
										Rs.	Rs.	Rs As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Assam for 1886-87*	46,341	4,881,426	105	2,044	64,904	23·0	2,388	32	75	2,97,333	1,59,847	0 1 0	0 0 6
Ditto 1885-86*	....	.....	105	1,921	60,828	24·0	2,541	32	80	2,95,537	1,52,968	0 1 0	0 0 6
Bengal ditto	165,775	68,160,598	411	55,299	1,328,280	2·9	1,233	24	51	29,96,233	46,51,437	0 0 8	0 1 1
Central Provinces for 1885-86	113,279	11,548,511	102	1,854	104,000	61·1	6,229	56	111	5,25,293	2,31,681	0 0 9	0 0 4
North-Western Provinces and Oudh for 1885-86.	1,061,115	44,107,869	42	6,069	255,330	174·8	7,268	42	173	19,33,096	9,84,090	0 0 8	0 0 4
British Burma for 1885-86	87,220	3,736,771	43	5,204	156,066	16·8	718	30	24	3,80,009	5,69,720	0 1 8	0 2 5
Hyderabad ditto	17,711	2,672,673	151	951	41,018	18·6	2,810	43	65	3,45,181	65,188	0 2 1	0 0 5

* Exclusive of Manipur.

With the exception of Burma and Hyderabad, the expenditure from the State per head of population is more liberal in Assam than in any of the other three provinces, while Bengal and Burma alone surpass Assam in the expenditure from other sources per head of population.

Comparison of details of expenditure for two years according to different classes of schools

12. Including the cost of direction, inspection, and general, miscellaneous, &c., which came to Rs. 79,590, and that on scholarships, both those paid in Assam and other provinces, which came to Rs. 34,049, the following statement affords a more general view of the expenditure on education than any of the tables already given :—

	1885-86.						
	Provincial.	Local Fund.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Government schools.....	50,810	84,212	1,877	57,477	1,747	9,935	2,06,058
2. Aided "	11,080	32,894	1,942	25,330	17,504	17,354	1,06,104
3. Unaided "	.....	.....	230	6,950	1,848	4,080	13,108
4. Scholarships	22,246	7,364	.....	.....	.....	671	30,281
5. Direction and Inspection, &c.	55,230	27,309	343	2,574	1,811	5,687	92,954
Total.....	1,39,366	1,51,779	4,392	92,331	22,910	37,727	4,48,505

	1886-87.						
	Provincial.	Local Fund.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Government schools.....	54,954	90,876	2,693	55,979	2,776	3,774	2,11,052
2. Aided "	10,243*	36,047	1,943	26,343	17,257*	19,671*	1,11,504
3. Unaided "	.....	.....	.....	8,020	2,087	11,614	21,721
4. Scholarships	24,941	8,269	.....	.....	.....	839	34,049
5. Direction and Inspection, &c.	52,472	19,995	66	2,113	593	4,351	79,590
Total.....	1,42,610	1,55,187	4,702	92,455	22,713	40,249	4,57,916

* Includes expenditure on the middle English school at Manipur

Comparing the two years, we find that State expenditure increased by Rs. 6,962, and that from all other sources by Rs. 2,449, so that the net increase was Rs. 9,411. The increase was distributed over all heads except Direction, Inspection, Miscellaneous, where there was a saving, Rs. 13,364. Of this, Rs. 2,000 was due to the saving effected by my rejoining in the end of October, debited to Provincial, being the difference of my pay for four months and Mr. Clarke's ; the savings of Rs. 7,314 under Local and Rs. 277 under Municipal Funds were distributed in small sums over each sub-division, and were, I believe, principally due to the heads Buildings, Special grants, and Travelling allowances. The district reports have not commented on these items. Fees under the head Direction, &c., are the fines for transfer of scholarships and examination fees both for departmental examinations in Assam and the University examinations. There is a small loss of Rs. 461 under this head. Combining subscriptions, endowments, &c., as shown under the head Direction and inspection, the expenditure for the current year was Rs. 2,554 less than that of the preceding year. This is more than accounted for by the expenditure of Rs. 3,400 from the Williamson Trust Fund in 1885-86 on repairing the school-house, Golághát. The fluctuation in the expenditure on scholarships in a large measure depends on the number of boys who pass the Entrance and First Arts Examinations. The number was large in 1885-86. This and the rule allowing additional Lower Primary Scholarships not exceeding 10 per cent. of the sanctioned number to be awarded account for the increase under this head. The increase under Government, which includes departmental, local, and municipal schools, was due to revision of establishments, and to new schools, and that under Aided and Unaided schools to the establishment of new schools under these heads.

The following statement, which exhibits the direct expenditure on schools according to their status, shows that there has been no perceptible proportionate change in the expenditure:—

Class of school	1885-86. Provincial.	Local.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments, &c.	Total.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Secondary	30,424	24,144	1,728	58,395	15,612	9,272	1,39,575
Primary	9,592	87,372	2,321	22,521	5,717	15,913	1,43,436
Special	21,874	5,590	.....	8,841	.....	5,954	42,259
Total	61,890	1,17,106	4,049	89,757	21,329	31,139	3,25,270

Class of school.	1886-87. Provincial.	Local.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscription.	Endowments, &c.	Total.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Secondary	*32,611	24,564	1,702	60,981	15,063*	15,586*	1,50,507*
Primary	9,152	95,174	2,624	22,213	6,905	16,415	1,52,483
Special	23,434	7,185	310	7,148	152	3,058	41,287
Total	65,197	1,26,923	4,636	90,342	22,120	35,059	3,41,277

* Includes expenditure on the Middle English School at Mampur

Comparison of cost of each class of schools for the last two years

13. The following table shows in detail the actual cost of teaching in each class of schools, and the average number taught. In this table Rs. 7,659, the expenditure on the Boys' European and Eurasian School, which was closed in December; Rs. 363 on the Mission School, Kohima, also closed; and Rs. 235, given as a grant-in-aid to the Nága Schools at Amguri under the American Mission, from which no returns have been received, have been excluded for the year 1886-87, as none of these schools are included in the number of schools nor are the pupils in the average attendance. These sums are, however, shown in General Table IV. of the prescribed statistics.

	1885-86. Number of schools.	Average number on rolls.	Cost. Government.	Local.	Others.	Total.	Cost per head.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
High	14	2,866	19,528	5,330	40,623	65,481	22 13 7
Middle English (boys)	43	3,328	2,129	12,652	28,799	43,780	13 2 6
„ Vernacular „	43	2,968	8,767	6,381	13,412	28,560	9 10 0
Upper primary „	99	3,921	17	11,057	9,030	20,104	5 2 0
Lower „ „	1,525	40,095	8,710	72,834	32,005	1,13,549	2 13 4
Normal	12	368	14,873	5,590	1,470	21,933	59 9 7
Middle Vernacular (girls)	3	92	.....	1,176	578	1,754	19 1 0
Upper primary „	2	56	.....	228	264	492	8 12 7
Lower „ „	173	2,627	865	5,574	2,852	9,291	3 8 7
Europeans and Eurasians	2	37	7,001	.....	8,006	15,007	405 9 6
Williamson Artizan School	1	19	.....	.....	2,980	2,980	156 13 6
Law schools	3	42	.....	.....	1,955	1,955	46 8 9
Other special schools	1	136	.....	.....	384	384	2 13 2
Total	1,921	56,555	61,890	1,21,022	1,42,358	3,25,270	5 12 0

	1886-87.						
	Number of schools.	Average number on rolls.	Cost. Government.	Local.	Others.	Total.	Cost per head.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
High	16	3,066	21,090	5,512	48,231	74,833	24 6 6
Middle English (boys)*	45	3,672	2,812	12,931	28,931	44,674	12 2 8
„ Vernacular „	47	3,102	8,622	6,404	13,672	28,698	9 4 2
Upper primary „	109	4,159	.....	12,081	9,524	21,605	5 3 2
Lower „ „	1,640	43,418	8,232	79,745	33,542	1,21,519	2 12 9
Normal	13	349	14,515	7,185	1,180	22,880	65 8 11
Middle Vernacular (girls)	4	105	.....	1,635	667	2,302	21 14 9
Upper primary „	2	62	.....	228	289	517	8 5 5
Lower „ „	164	2,719	685	5,744	2,178	8,607	3 2 8
Europeans and Eurasians	1	12	3,863	.....	2,969	6,832	569 5 4
Williamson Artizan School	1	22	.....	.....	1,933	1,933	87 13 10
Law schools	1	21	.....	.....	1,100	1,100	52 6 1
Other special schools	2	116	.....	.....	520	520	4 7 9
Total	2,045	60,823	59,819	1,31,465	1,44,736	3,36,020	5 8 5

* Includes the Middle English School at Manipur.

1A.—Recommendations of the Education Commission.

14. In accordance with the orders contained in paragraph 19 of the Resolution on the General Report on Public Instruction, Assam, for 1885-86, the following summary as to how far the recommendations of the Education Commission have been carried out is given.

Indigenous schools.

15. Sanskrit *tols* were recognised, and encouraged by rewards allotted on the result of an examination in the district of Kámrúp before the Commission was held, and in January 1885 rules were issued to all Local Boards for granting aid both to *tols* and *maktabs*, under the system of rewards based on the results of examinations; but it was found impracticable to carry out Recommendation 8, namely, that the examinations should be conducted *in situ*, as our inspecting staff is neither strong enough, nor sufficiently versed in Sanskrit, Persian, or Arabic, to undertake the work. Examinations are, therefore, held at district head-quarters, where non-educational men assist in the work. In Kámrúp and Sylhet alone have *tols* competed at these examinations. Out of 38 *tols* in Kámrup with 759 pupils, 13 competed, sending up 87 candidates, of whom 30 passed in one or more subjects, and subsidies amounting to Rs. 220 were granted. In Sylhet, out of 37 *tols*, with 544 pupils, 5 competed, sending up 25 candidates, of whom 16 qualified, and subsidies amounting to Rs. 194 were granted. Not a single *maktab* in the Province has come forward, and I believe the chief, if not whole, reason is that *maktabs* devote their time almost exclusively to learning the "Koran" by heart. There were 79 *tols* and 145 *maktabs*, with 1,377 and 2,731 pupils respectively at work on the 31st March.

Primary education

16. Elementary Vernacular schools more properly come under this head than under indigenous schools, as they are, with rare exceptions, the creations of the department, being started by ex-pupils, with the hope of receiving Government aid in some form or other. The practice in this Province has always been to utilise these schools when possible. This is the system recommended by the Commission, so that there has been no necessity for any alteration of the practice already in existence. The recommendations of the Commission on primary education so closely coincide with the practice already in vogue in Assam that there has been no need to make any radical changes. The proposal in Recommendation 7 that primary schools should generally be aided according to results, has been carried out, and rules to that effect were issued by the Chief Commissioner in January 1885. A detailed report of the working of these rules has lately been submitted to the Chief Commissioner, which shows that in some districts the system has met with

I would willingly have entered into greater detail, but refrained from doing so through the fear of making the report too long.

SECTION II.—CONTROLLING AGENCIES.

24. On return from furlough, I took over charge of my office from Mr. Clarke on the 20th October 1886. During the year, Mr. Clarke was 53 days on tour, and paid 16 visits to schools, and I was 133 days on tour, and made 131 visits to schools. The following shows the distributions of visits:—

	By Mr. Clarke.	By Mr. Willson.
High schools	1	22
Middle English	2	12
Ditto Vernacular	.....	16
Upper primary	.....	11
Lower ditto	9	62
Special	4	8
Total	16	131

In addition to this, I inspected the Local Board accounts at all head-quarters and at all sub-divisions, with the exception of South Sylhet, Habiganj, and Sunámganj.

Inspection done by each Deputy and Sub-Inspector.

25. The following table shows the work done by each Deputy and Sub-Inspector during the year:—

District	Officers.	Area of district.	Number of schools on 1st April 1886, according to last year's return.	Number of schools at work on 31st March 1887.	Number of days on tour.	Visits paid.	Miles travelled.
Cachar	Deputy-Inspector	3,750	158	141	149	153	1,095
	Sub-Inspector, Cachar	.....	93	78	110	159	763
	,, , Hailákándi	.....	62	61	261	330	1,566
Sylhet	Deputy Inspector	5,356	564	658	168	179	1,974
	First Sub-Inspector, Habiganj	969	68	75	230	309	1,936
	Second ditto, ditto	.....	68	76	227	265	1,947
	First ditto, Karimganj	1,033	140	159	243	242	1,654
	Second ditto, Ditto				171	197	941
	ditto, Sunámganj	1,415	66	80	218	279	2,341
	ditto, North Sylhet	1,051	114	130	120	230	1,159
	ditto, South Sylhet	888	103	136	253	358	2,080
Khási and Jaintia Hills	Deputy-Inspector	6,157	123	131	189	111	1,569
Gáro Hills	Sub-Inspector	3,643	36	34	Return not received.		
Goálpára	Deputy-Inspector	3,897	157	169	179	264	2,450
	Sub-Inspector, Goálpára	.....	71	76	201	284	2,093
	Ditto Dhubri	.....	86	93	140	177	1,445
Kámrúp	Deputy-Inspector	3,631	293	309	166	207	1,267
	Sub-Inspector, North Bank Gauháti	2,431	118	126	302	267	2,099
	ditto, South ,, ,,		84	88	195	176	1,327
	ditto, Barpetá	1,200	90	95	200	193	1,948
Darrang	Deputy-Inspector	3,418	129	132	183	170	1,593
	Sub-Inspector, Mangaldai	.....	57	59	173	220	1,192
Nowgong	Deputy-Inspector	3,750	153	156	217	340	2,193
	Sub-Inspector (Jagi)	.....	65	69	197	198	1,493
Sibságar	Deputy-Inspector	2,855	202	216	158	220	1,532
	Sub-Inspector, Golághát	947	54	57	162	120	1,073
	Ditto Jorhát	926	76	81	228	277	2,572
	Ditto Sibságar	982	67	73	220	300	2,489
Lakhimpur	Deputy-Inspector	3,147	95	96	122	120	2,033
	Sub-Inspector, North Lakhimpur	1,107	36	37	167	169	1,840
	Ditto Dibrugarh	2,040	58	58	187	170	2,305

Deputy-Inspectors were, on an average, 170 days on tour, varying from 122 days for Lakhimpur to 207 for Nowgong, and paid, on an average, 196 visits to schools. For the year 1885-86, in Bengal the average length of tour was 168 days with 266 visits, and in Assam 174 days with 210 visits. Sub-Inspectors* were, on an average, 201 days on tour, and paid 236 visits, against 207 days and 210 visits in the preceding year. In Bengal in 1885-86 Sub-Inspectors (including educational clerks) were 211 days on tour, and paid 345 visits. In the report for 1882 83, I stated that each Sub-Inspector should be about 260 days on tour. The Sub-Inspectors of Gauháti, north bank, and of Hailákándi are the only two who have exceeded this figure, the former with 302, and the latter with 261 days. South Sylhet is next, but with 253 days, closely followed by Karimganj with 243 days.

* I have excluded the second Sub-Inspector, Karimganj, from these figures, as he was at work for only part of the year.

The number of days the following Sub-Inspectors were on tour is much below the average:—

Cachar	110
North Sylhet	120
Dhubri	140
Golághát	162
North Lakhimpur	167

The bad inspection in Cachar is partly accounted for by the Sub-Inspector going on sick leave on the 13th November 1886, and the new man did not join until the 21st February 1887. The delay was caused by the wavering of the Board in deciding whether there was to be a Sub-Inspector and a clerk, or that these posts should be amalgamated. They finally decided on the latter, and the Sub-Inspector from Mangal lai was sent to Cachar. Three changes of Sub-Inspectors occurred in North Sylhet, but the sub-division was at no time for more than a week without an officer, so these changes will not account for the bad work. Last year it was equally bad, and not very much better the year before. The case has been sent up to the Chief Commissioner for orders. The Dhubri Sub-Inspector was a good man; he fell ill towards the end of 1886, had to go on leave, and subsequently died. A month was lost in filling up his post, which, with the six weeks he was on leave without a substitute, accounts for the small number of days on tour. In Golághát the Sub-Inspector was allowed to go on three months' leave by the Local Board, the Sub-Inspector of Jorhát being put in charge of both sub-divisions, and again towards the close of the year he had to go on six months' sick leave. In this case I insisted on a substitute. No explanation has been given for short work in North Lakhimpur. The high floods that came down during the rains in both valleys generally interfered with inspection work.

Inspection by district officers, &c.

26. The returns submitted for the inspection done by district officers, missionaries, and others is so imperfect that I consider it useless to compile a statement similar to that in paragraph 26 of last year's report. I may, however, state that the district reports show that 378 visits to schools were paid by these officers, that in Cachar 46 visits were paid to primary schools, and, of these, 33 visits were made by the sub-divisional officer of Hailákándi. In Goálpára, 42 visits were made, 32 of which were made by non-officials. The Assistant-Commissioner, Mangaldai, paid 27 visits to schools, mostly primary. In Sibságar, 43 visits were made to primary schools, of which 7 were made by the Deputy-Commissioner and 15 by the Assistant-Commissioners; and in Lakhimpur, 17 visits were made to primary schools, of which 3 were made by the Deputy-Commissioner and 12 by the Assistant-Commissioner. The missionaries report that they visited all schools under their charge at least once during the year, but have not given returns. The district officers, when they visit a school, invariably leave a record of their visit in the inspection book, for the guidance of the Deputy or Sub-Inspector, as the case may be. Members of Local Boards other than Deputy and Assistant-Commissioners are returned as having only paid 22 visits to schools, and these were, I believe, all to station schools. This does not say much for the interest they take in educational matters.

Details of inspection of Deputy and Sub Inspectors

27. The following table, which shows the number of schools under inspection on the 31st March, the number closed during the year, and the visits paid by Deputy and Sub-Inspectors, has been compiled from the district returns:—

Upper and Lower Primary Schools (Government, Aided, and Unaided).

District.	Number of schools on 31st March 1887.	Number of schools abolished during the year.	Number of schools visited: Four or more times.	Thrice.	Twice.	Once	Number of existing schools not visited.	Number of abolished schools visited.	Number of abolished schools not visited.
Cachar	132	32	77	29	21	5	...	19	13
Sylhet	617	76	182	182	150	93	10	42	34
Khási Hills	122	3	...	...	21	68	33	...	3
Gáro "	Returns not received.								
Goálpára	155	23	89	29	19	18	...	21	2
Kámrúp	293	7	53	81	131	27	1	6	1
Darrang	122	9	39	22	21	15	25	4	5
Nowgong	149	16	59	46	34	10	...	14	2
Sibságar	202	14	101	29	45	26	1	12	2
Lakhimpur	88	17	48	5	13	8	14	11	6
Total	1,880	197	648	423	455	270	84	129	68

Middle English and Vernacular Schools (Government, Aided, and Unaided).

District.	Number of schools on 31st March 1887.	Number of schools abolished during the year.	Number of schools visited: Four or more times.	Thrice.	Twice.	Once.	Number of existing schools not visited.	Number of abolished schools visited.	Number of abolished schools not visited
Cachar	5	1	3	1	1	...	...	1	...
Sylhet	34	1	22	5	5	2	...	...	1
Khási Hills	6	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...
Gáro "	Returns not received.								
Goálpára	13	...	11	2	...	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	13	...	7	2	4	...	...	..	...
Darrang	6	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	5	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...
Sibságar	10	1	5	1	1	2	1	1	...
Lakhimpur	6	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...
Total	98	3	61	13	11	6	7	2	1
Normal and Special Schools (exclusive of Law Schools).									
Cachar	3	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Sylhet	1	...	...	1	...	...	.	...	...
Khási Hills	1*	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Gáro "	Returns not received.								
Goálpára	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Kámrúp	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Darrang	3	...	1	...	1	..	1	...	...
Nowgong	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sibságar	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Lakhimpur	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	14	...	6	2	2	2	2	...	...

* Exclusive of European and Eurasian school.

The above table does not include high and European and Eurasian schools, as these classes of schools are not under Deputy or Sub-Inspectors for the purpose of inspection. The figures for Goálpára include the six Gáro schools situated in the outskirts of the Gáro Hills, which are under the administration of the American Mission at Tura, as these schools are in the Goálpára district, and are, therefore, under the inspection of the Sub-Inspector, Goálpára. The returns for inspection have not been received from the Deputy-Commissioner of the Gáro Hills, so these schools have been excluded. Of the primary schools existing on the 31st March, excluding those in the Gáro Hills, 34 per cent. were visited four times or oftener; 22 per cent. three times, 24 per cent. twice; 14 per cent. once; and only 4 per cent. were left unvisited. In the Khási Hills the illness of the Deputy-Inspector accounts for the number of schools left unvisited by him. In Darrang the Deputy-Inspector did not visit all the departmental schools for Kacháris, which were under Mr. Endle, his attention has been called to this; and in Lakhimpur, for some cause not explained, 14 out of 88, or nearly 16 per cent, of the schools were not inspected. Middle and special schools were, on the whole, well inspected.

SECTION III.—University Education.

[*Nil*]

SECTION IV.—School Education, General.

A.—Secondary Schools.

28. Under secondary schools are included high and middle schools. High schools teach up to the University Entrance Examination. Middle schools are middle English and middle Vernacular. Both classes of schools are on the same basis, with the addition that in middle English schools English is taught in addition to the full Vernacular course. The aided middle schools in the Brahmaputra Valley have the option of reading either in Bengali or Assamese. Most prefer the former as the vehicle for conveying instruction. The school for European children at Shillong is a special school, and is not included in the subjoined table, which is for boys' schools alone:—

	1885-86.			1886-87.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number of pupils to a school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number of pupils to a school.
High English—						
Departmental	10	2,271	227	10	2,129	212
Aided	3	410	136	3	382	127
Unaided	1	331	331	3	526	175
Total	14	3,012	215	16	3,037	189

Middle English—						
Departmental	3	274	91	3	242	81
Aided	29	2,530	87	29	2,559	88
Unaided	11	855	78	13	1,230	94
Total	43	3,659	85	45	4,031	89
Middle Vernacular—						
Departmental	16	1,361	85	16	1,495	93
Aided	26	1,756	68	29	1,789	62
Unaided	1	68	68	2	171	85
Total	43	3,185	74	47	3,455	74
Grand Total	100	9,856	98	108	10,523	98

This shows that under secondary schools there has been an increase of eight schools and 667 pupils. The increase under each class will be treated of later on under their respective heads. The directions of the Education Commission, as laid down in their 11th recommendation on the external relations of the department, "that in ordinary circumstances the further extension of secondary education in any district be left to the operation of the grant-in-aid system as soon as that district is provided with an efficient high school, Government or other, along with its necessary feeders," has been steadily borne in mind, as a comparison of the figures for 1882-83 shows, when the departmental schools were, 9 high, 3 middle English, and 17 middle Vernacular. The increase of one high school is due to that at Kohima in the Nága Hills, which could not have been started on the grant-in-aid system.

Review of high schools for the last five years.

29. The following statement shows the progress of high schools for the last five years:—

Year	Number of departmental high schools.	Roll number on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure *			Cost of educating each pupil.		
					From the State.	Fees and other sources	Total.	To the State.	From fees, fines, and other sources.	Total.
					Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs A P	Rs. A. P	Rs A. P.
1881 82	9	1,898	1,708	1,393	19,085	21,474	40,559	11 2 9	12 9 2	23 11 11
1882-83	9	1,921	1,770	1,484	20,864	24,335	45,199	11 12 7	13 12 0	25 8 7
1883 84	9	2,113	1,900	1,566	18,919	28,225	47,144	9 15 4	14 13 8	24 13 0
1884 85	9	2,084	2,064	1,709	18,317	29,360	47,677	8 14 0	14 3 2	23 1 2
1885 86	10	2,271	2,145	1,781	19,528	30,323	49,851	9 1 8	14 2 2	23 3 10
1886 87	10	2,129	2,138	1,788	21,090	32 410	53,500	9 13 10	15 2 6	25 0 4

* Exclusive of the cost paid by Public Works Department for repairs and renewals to school buildings

In this table the amounts spent by the Public Works Department on ordinary repairs and renewals have been excluded, as, under the orders of the Government of India, these sums were first brought to account in the education returns in 1883-84, and hence, for comparison with preceding years, this expenditure has to be omitted. This also accounts for the difference in the total expenditure and that of educating each pupil in the above table and that in the next paragraph. The increased cost of these schools to Government was due to the Kohima school and the revision of establishments which came into effect in July 1886. The steady increase in the receipts from fees is satisfactory.

Statistics of high schools in each district

30. The following table shows the particulars of high schools for the year under report:—

District.	Name of school.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils: On rolls on 31st March.	Number of pupils: Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Number of pupils: Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure: From Government: Provincial.	Direct expenditure: From Government: Local for ordinary repairs and renewals by Department Public Works and District Fund.	Direct expenditure: From fees and fines and other sources.	Direct expenditure: Total.	Cost of educating each pupil: To Government.	Cost of educating each pupil: To the public.	Cost of educating each pupil: Total.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. As. P.
Departmental—												
Cachar	Silchar	1	178	165	143	2,035	275	2,054	5,364	19 7 3	12 7 2	31 14 5
Sylhet	Sylhet	1	355	373	312	2,397	863	5,828	9,088	9 8 8	15 10 0	25 2 8
Goálpára	Dhubri	1	126	131	108	1,868	86	2,521	4,475	14 14 8	19 3 11	34 2 7
Kámrúp	Gauhátí	1	331	324	268	2,119	545	5,963	8,627	8 6 7	18 6 6	26 10 1
Darrang	Tezpur	1	158	155	128	3,197	137	1,884	5,078	21 14 4	10 13 9	32 12 1
Nowgong	Nowgong	1	190	191	154	1,943	249	2,666	4,858	11 7 7	13 15 4	25 6 11
Sibságar	Jórhát	1	236	230	196	998	.....	3,880	4,878	4 5 3	16 13 11	21 3 2
,,	Sibságar	1	266	265	227	1,890	136	3,721	5,687	7 6 8	14 0 8	21 7 4
Lakhimpur	Dibrugarh	1	271	274	224	2,149	297	4,093	6,539	8 14 10	14 15 0	23 13 10
Nága Hills	Kohima	1	40	30	19	1,356	.....	....	1,356	45 3 2	.....	45 3 2
Total of Departmental Schools		10	2,129	2,138	1,788	21,090	2,848	32,410	56,148	11 1 8	15 2 7	26 4 3
Total of Departmental Schools for 1885-86		10	2,271	2,145	1,781	19,528	2,413	30,323	52,264	10 3 8	14 2 2	24 5 10
Aided—												
Sylhet	Habiganj	1	212	203	161	....	1,135*	2,853	3,988	5 7 10	13 15 5	19 7 3
Kámrúp	Barpeta	1	136	149	129	....	1,739*	2,594	4,333	11 10 9	17 6 6	29 1 3
Khási and Jaintia Hills.	Shillong Mission	1	34	29	24	....	.....	1,576	1,576	.....	54 5 7	54 5 7
Total of Aided Schools		3	382	383	314	....	2,874	7,023	9,897	8 1 5†	18 5 10	25 13 6
Total of Aided Schools for 1885-86		3	410	299	329	....	2,417	6,971	9,388	7 8 11†	17 7 6	24 12 6
Unaided—												
Sylhet	National Institution	1	286	311	254	....	.....	3,475	3,475	.....	11 2 9	11 2 9
,,	Murari Chand	1	180	177	143	....	.....	3,851	3,851	.....	21 12 1	21 12 1
,,	Habiganj Institution	1	60	57	26	....	.....	1,462	1,462	.....	25 10 5	25 10 5
Total of Unaided Schools		3	526	545	423	....	.....	8,788	8,788	.....	16 1 11	16 1 11
Ditto ditto for 1885-86		1	331	322	263	....	.....	3,329	3,329	.....	10 5 5	10 5 5
Grand Total of Departmental Aided and Unaided High Schools		16	3,037	3,066	2,525	21,090	5,512	48,231	74,833	8 10 10	16 11 8	24 6 6
Ditto ditto ditto for 1885-86		14	3,012	2,866	2,373	19,528	5,330	40,623	65,481	8 10 9	14 2 10	22 13 7

* For establishment, &c.
† In calculating the cost to Government, the average number on the rolls of the Shillong Mission and unaided Schools has been excluded.

The number of departmental schools remained the same, while there was a falling off in the number on the rolls on 31st March and in the average number on the rolls monthly of 142 and 7 respectively, but the daily attendance increased by 7, being 83·6 per cent. of the average monthly roll numbers, against 83 per cent, for the preceding year. The average number on the rolls monthly is usually a little less than the number on the rolls on the 31st March; but for the year under report it was slightly in excess. This I believe was due to a stricter observance of the departmental rule, *viz.*, that the names of boys who do not pay their fees on or before the 25th of the month are struck off the rolls. The net cost to provincial has increased by Rs. 1,562, the chief portion of this being due to the Kohima School, the expenditure on which came to Rs. 1,356, against Rs. 90 in the preceding year, which is accounted for by the school being started towards the close of 1885-86. The expenditure on repairs by the Public Works Department debited to Local shows an increase of Rs. 235, and the receipts from fees show, an increase of Rs. 2,087. Thus, the total expenditure shows an increase of Rs. 3,884 over that of the preceding year. As mentioned before, Rs. 1,266 of this was due to the Kohima School. The balance, Rs. 2,618, was due to annual increments to head-masters' pay, to raising the pay of some of the junior posts, and strengthening the staff of some of the schools, by the appointments of additional teachers. There was, in consequence, an increase in the cost of educating each pupil. The number of aided schools was three, as in the preceding year, but there was a slight falling off in the number attending these schools, with a corresponding increase in the total cost of educating each pupil. The unaided schools increased by two, *viz.*, the Murari Chand School in the town of Sylhet, and the Habiganj Institution at Habiganj. These schools in no small measure tended to decrease the number of pupils in the neighbouring high schools.

To sum up, there was for all classes an increase of two schools, 25 pupils 200 on the average number on the rolls monthly, and 152 in the daily average attendance, which was 82·3 per cent. of the average monthly roll number, against 82·7 per cent. for the preceding year. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 9,352, and the receipts from fees, fines, and other sources by Rs. 7,608, of which Rs. 3,513 was due to the two new unaided schools. Of the total expenditure on this class of schools, 64 per cent. was borne by the public, against 62 per cent. in the preceding year.

Classification of pupils in high schools according to religion.

31. Classified according to religion, the pupils of high schools, Government, aided, and unaided, stood as follows for the last five years: —

Year.	Number on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Musalmans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
1882-83 ...	2,536	2,094	82·57	379	14·91	63	2·49
1883-84 ...	2,843	2,366	83·22	410	14·42	67	2·36
1884-85 ...	2,832	2,356	83·18	405	14·15	71	2·67
1885-86 ...	3,012	2,527	83·89	419	13·8	66	2·31
1886-87 ...	3,037	2,549	83·93	410	13·5	78	2·57

Stage of instruction of pupils in high schools.

32. The following table shows the stage of instruction of pupils in high schools :—

Name of school.	Number of pupils on rolls on 31st March.	High stage.	Middle stage.	Upper primary stage.	Lower primary stage a.	Lower primary stage b.
		Boys.	Boys.	Boys.	Boys.	Boys.
		1	2	3	4	5
Departmental schools	2,129	468	550	398	713	.....
Aided schools.....	382	97	64	72	149	.....
Unaided schools.....	526	137	125	143	121	.....
Total	3,037	702	739	613	983	.....

From this table it will be seen that 23 per cent. of the pupils were in the high stage, 24 per cent. in the middle stage, 20 per cent. in the upper primary stage, and 33 per cent. in the lower primary stage. There appears a considerable improvement in standard from these figures; but, as explained in former reports, it is not safe to draw deductions from these figures, still they are an approximate guide to the condition of the schools.

Results of Entrance Examination for last five years.

33. The following table shows the number of candidates that appeared from the several schools and the number that passed the examination for the last five years:—

	Name of school.	1882. Number of candidates who appeared.	1882. Number passed.	1883. Number of candidates who appeared.	1883. Number passed.	1885.* Number of candidates who appeared.	1885.* Number passed.	1886. Number of candidates who appeared.	1886. Number passed.	1887. Number of candidates who appeared.	1887. Number passed
Departmental Entrance schools.	Silchar (Cachar)	3	2	4	2	5	3	5	2	7	4
	Sylhet.....	15	7	21	16	19	13	21	12	30	26
	Dhubri (Goálpára)	4	3	5	4	8	3	4	2	5	5
	Gauháti (Kámrúp)	9	5	8	5	12	7	12	4	12	9
	Tezpur (Darrang)	4	2	6	2	4	2	2	1	6	5
	Nowgong	4	2	8	3	8	1	6	2	2	2
	Jorhát (Sibságar).....	1	1	2	1	8	3	4	...	7	5
	Sibságar.....	5	2	4	3	7	...	5	3	11	2
	Dibrugarh (Lakhimpur)	6	1	6	...	6	2	5	4	6	3
	Kohima (Nága Hills)	New school.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	51	25	64	36	77	34	64	30	86	61
Aided.	Barpeta (Kámrúp)	2	...	2	1	3	...	5	2	5	4
	Habiganj (Sylhet)	...	...	4	2	8	2	13	3	8	4
	Shillong Mission (Khási Hills)	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	6	5
	Total	2	...	8	3	12	3	19	5	19	13
Unaided.	National Institution (Sylhet)	9	3	18	7	20	3	16	4	14	9
	Murari Chand "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	8
	Habiganj Institution "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
	Total	9	3	18	7	20	3	16	4	32	20
	Grand Total	62	28	90	46	109	40	99	39	137	94

*No examination in 1884.

Besides the 137 boys who went up for the Entrance Examination, three teachers appeared from Assam, and passed the examination. The large increase in the number of passed candidates is no doubt chiefly due to the changes made by the University in the minimum passing marks. Under the original rules the minimum number of marks required for passing was one-third, or 33 per cent., in English, second language, and mathematics, and one-fourth, or 25 per cent., in history and geography. In lieu of this, the two following rules came into force for the last examination:—

(1) That in order to pass, a candidate be required to obtain 30 per cent. of marks in English and 25 per cent. in the remaining subjects.

(2) That, subject to the above proviso, a minimum of 33 per cent. in the aggregate of compulsory subjects be considered necessary to enable a candidate to pass.

Comparison of Entrance Examination for last two years.

34. The results of the two last examinations are shown in the subjoined table, which differs in several respects from any of the tables in former reports. The table is intended for the comparison of the schools for the last two years, both as to numerical strength and success at the Entrance Examination. The last two columns show the *merit marks* of each school, which is obtained by adding to the number of pupils who pass in the third division twice the number in the second and thrice the number in the first. The *merit mark* for Sylhet Government schools is, therefore, $2 + 19 \times 2 + 5 \times 3 = 55$. The schools are arranged according to their merit mark for 1887.

Name of school.	Roll number on 31st March.	1886.						Roll number on 31st March.	1887.						Merit mark.	
		Number of candidates.	Number passed in			Total.	Number of scholarships.		Number of candidates.	Number passed in			Total.	Number of scholarships.		
			First division.	Second division.	Third division.					First division.	Second division.	Third division.			1886.	1887.
Sylhet Government	453	21	4	3	5	12	6	355	30	5	19	2	26	6	23	55
Gauháti "	311	12	..	1	3	4	4	321	12	2	6	1	9	8	5	19
Murari Chand private	....	..	..	..	..	..	2	180	13	1	6	1	8	..	..	16
National Institution, Sylhet	331	16	..	1	3	4	..	286	14	2	1	6	9	2	5	14
Jorhát Government	277	4	..	..	..	..	..	236	7	3	2	..	5	5	..	13
Dhubri "	130	4	..	2	..	2	2	126	5	3	2	..	5	4	4	13
Dibrugarh "	243	5	2	1	1	4	4	271	6	3	..	..	3	2	9	9
Barpeta aided	156	5	..	1	1	2	2	136	5	1	2	1	4	4	3	8
Shillong Mission	15	1	..	..	..	..	..	34	6	1	1	3	5	3	..	8
Tezpur Government	151	2	..	..	1	1	1	156	6	..	3	2	5	4	1	8
Habiganj Institution private	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	5	1	2	..	3	..	..	7
Ditto aided	239	13	..	2	1	3	2	212	8	1	1	2	4	1	5	7
Sibságar Government	286	5	..	3	..	3	3	256	11	1	1	..	2	1	6	5
Cachar "	164	5	..	1	1	2	1	178	7	..	..	4	4	1	3	4
Nowgong "	219	6	..	1	1	2	2	190	2	..	..	2	2	2	3	2
	2,975	99	6	16	17	29	29	2,997	137	24	45	24	94	43	67	188

The Sylhet Government School occupies the first place, followed by Gauháti. O the 94 boys who passed the Entrance Examination 68 took up Sanskrit, 24 Bengali, and two Persian.

Junior scholarships.

35. The junior scholarships are of four classes, as follows:—

(*a*) The Brahmaputra Valley scholarships of Rs. 20 awarded to 21 Assamese and 9 Bengali boys, out of 35 (21 Assamese and 14 Bengali) who passed.

(*b*) The Khási and Jaintia Hills scholarship of Rs. 20 awarded to three boys out of five who passed; the other two boys were not eligible, as their parents were never employed or residents of these Hills.

(*c*) Eight Surma Valley scholarships of Rs. 15. Four were awarded to the first four boys in order of merit, and four to poor boys, natives of the valley.

(*d*) Special Muhammadan scholarships of Rs. 15 awarded to the two Musalman boys from the Surma Valley who passed, but did not succeed in getting other scholarships.

Appointment of Maulvis in high schools.

36. In paragraph 44 of last year's report Mr. Clarke discussed the question of retaining Maulvis in high schools, and in the concluding clause of paragraph 10 of the Resolution on the report the Chief Commissioner desired that the state of the public feeling on the subject should be obtained, and proposals submitted for orders. Accordingly, in December a letter was issued

to all head-masters of Government high schools, asking them to obtain the wishes of the parents and guardians of Musalman boys as to the desirability of abolishing Maulvis and spending the savings in diminishing their children's fees. With the exception of the Muhammadans at Dhubri, all were in favour of retaining Maulvis, and some went so far as to say that sooner than lose their Maulvi they were, if necessary, willing to subscribe towards his pay. Memorials teemed in, protesting in the strongest measure against the proposal to abolish these posts, and while on tour several influential deputations waited on me with memorials to the same effect. Mr. Campbell, Deputy-Commissioner of Kámrúp, who had been for a long time stationed at Dhubri, in a memorandum on a memorial from the Secretary of the "Subid Islami," Gauháti, I believe, points out the real reason of the indifference of the Muhammadans of the Goálpára district to the study of Persian or Arabic. His memorandum is as follows:—

"The Muhammadans in the Dhubri (Goálpára) district, whose opinion the late Inspector of Schools quotes, are not the exponents of the opinions of their co-religionists in Assam. The Muhammadan population of the Goálpára district and part of Eastern Bengal generally are the descendants of a pure and unadulterated Koch, Gáro, and Rajbanshi population, forcibly converted to Muhammadanism during the Muhammadan conquest. The only exception are a few office-holders in public establishments. The present memorialists and their co-religionists in the Assam Valley are descendants of the Muhammadan conquerors of the Province, who remained in it as subjects when the native dynasty regained its ascendancy. They have always evinced a passionate desire to acquire a knowledge of the language in which their holy books are written, and which was spoken by the great Prophet of their religion. In the remote Musalman villages of Goálpára Hindu rites are still freely practised, and their religion approaches more a Demonology than Muhammadanism."

It being thus the decided desire of this section of the community that the post of Maulvi in our high schools should be retained, orders to that effect were issued. A Maulvi was also sanctioned for the Nowgong High School, and my proposals that the Gauháti Maulvi should inspect the Persian classes in the schools in the Assam Valley also received the Chief Commissioner's approval.

School accommodation and furniture

37. The arrangements for additional light and another class-room at Gauháti have been carried out. The proposed *pucca* extension to the Sibságar School has been built; the additional school-house at Nowgong has been provided for in the budget, the plans and estimate sanctioned, and the work taken in hand, so that by the close of the present year all Government high schools will be farly well housed. Furniture in most cases meets the absolute requirements of the schools, and from time to time, as funds are available, additions are made.

Gymnastics

38. In paragraph 42 of the report for 1883-84, I fully discussed this subject, and have nothing more of importance to add. Assam pupils, though not very enthusiastic about the matter, are still as a rule willing to practise gymnastics, and the scheme has met with success where we have had skilled instructors. The question of success simply and wholly depends on having funds to entertain the services of good teachers.

Boarding houses

39. The following table shows the particulars of Government boarding-houses attached to high schools :--

School.	Number of boarders.	Sanctioned yearly expenditure for establishment.	Expenditure.		
			Establishment.	Construction and repairs.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Silchar	10	192	192	40	232
Sylhet	15	168	160	40	200
Dhubri	12	168	168	*251	419
Gauháti	25	228	228	103	331
Tezpur	12	144	144	25	169
Nowgong	30	132	205	*132	337
Jorhát	11	144	144	60	204
Sibságar	16	84	...	...	...
Dibrugarh	19	156	156	*129	285
Total ...	150	1,416	1,397	780	2,177
Corresponding total for preceding year.	145	1,404	1,412	489	1,901

* Spent by Public Works Department, Local.

It will be seen from the above that no expenditure has been shown on the Sibságar boarding-house. The head-master in his report has wholly ignored this, as many

other important points concerning his school, and I cannot delay this report pending information on this head. On the whole, the boarding-houses have worked well during the year; that at Sylhet has been closed since May, as the Civil Surgeon reported that the site was unhealthy, and no other is available on terms we can afford. When I visit Sylhet in August, I will see what can be done in the matter. Besides the boarding-houses attached to Government high schools, there are boarding-houses attached to the aided high schools at Barpeta and Habiganj, and to the normal school, Gauháti. There is also a hostel for Musalman boys at Cachar, supported by private funds, and several boarding-houses in connection with middle schools.

Details of high schools.

40. The following details are abstracted from the annual reports of the head-masters of high schools :—

Silchar.—The number on the rolls on the 31st March rose from 164 to 178, the average number on the rolls monthly from 159 to 165, and the average daily attendance from 137 to 143. Thus, the daily attendance was 86 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly for both years. Of the 178 boys on the rolls, 33 are Muhammadans, 10 of whom belong to the Persian class, and only read Persian or Arabic. If these 10 boys be excluded, there remain 22 Muhammadans in the school department proper, and of these only 8 have taken up Persian. The head-master has not given the number of boys who are natives of Cachar. When I inspected the school in November there were 37 natives of Cachar out of 167 on the rolls.

Seven boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, and 4 were passed in the third division. Two of these are natives of Cachar. Last year, one of the boys who passed was a native of Cachar. These three boys are the only natives of Cachar who have passed the Entrance Examination from this school.

Sylhet.—The number on the rolls has fallen from 453 to 355. Regarding this, the head-master writes:—

"The large falling off of nearly 100 boys is mainly due to the establishment of a new high school in the town under the name of the Murari Chand School, with rates of fees much lower than those of the zila school."

I am quite satisfied with this explanation, and am convinced that the falling off is solely due to the cause mentioned by the head-master. The school is the most efficient school in the Province, and holds its own when compared with schools of the same class in Bengal. Comparing it with these schools, it stood in 1886 fifth in order out of 38 Bengal zila schools with a merit mark of 23, Barrisal, Bhagulpur, Howrah, and Commilla standing above it, in order of merit, with merit marks of 34, 32, 26, and 24, respectively. For the examination of 1887 its merit mark is 55, but the examination seems to have been much easier than in previous years. The average number on the rolls monthly was 373, against 419, and the average daily attendance 312, against 350. The percentage of attendance was, as in the preceding year, 83 per cent. of the average monthly roll number. Of the 355 boys on the rolls, 274 were Hindus, 75 Muhammadans, and 6 native Christians, showing a loss of 70 Hindus and 28 Muhammadans, but a gain of one Christian. Twenty-seven Musalman boys were assisted from the Mohsin Fund. Seventy-three Musalman boys have taken up Persian or Arabic as their second language.

Thirty boys competed at the Entrance Examination, of whom 26 were successful. Umacharan Tarafdar, who headed the Provincial list, obtains Khagendra Narayan's first gold medal, and also the McWilliam medal. Three of the four competition scholarships were carried off by boys from this school.

Murari Chand Private School, Sylhet.—This school was started in June 1886 by Babu Giris Chandra Ray, zemindár, and had on the 31st March 180 boys on the rolls, with an average monthly roll number of 177 and a daily attendance of 143, being 80 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly. Thirteen candidates were sent up to the Entrance Examination, of whom 8 passed. It should be remembered that most, if not all, of these boys were drawn from the Government high school or National Institution, Sylhet, and that if this school had not been started, these institutions would have had the credit of passing these 8 boys. The school is a promising one, and, under the able management of Babu Giris Chandra Ray, who takes a deep interest in the education of his countrymen is sure to succeed.

The National Institution, private school, Sylhet.—The roll number has fallen from 331 to 286, the average number on the rolls monthly from 322 to 311, and the daily attendance from 263 to 212. The daily attendance was only 68 per cent. of the average number on the rolls, which compares unfavourably with the Murari Chand and Government school, where the percentage was 80 and 83 respectively. The decrease in the roll number is, no doubt, due to the Murari Chand School.

The school did well at the Entrance Examination, passing 9 boys out of 14 sent up, and, according to merit mark, stands fourth in Assam. The fourth competition scholarship was gained by a boy from this school.

Dhubri.—The number of boys on the rolls on the 31st March was 126, against 130 in the preceding year; but the average number on the rolls monthly and the daily attendance show a slight improvement, being 131 and 108, against 120 and 100 respectively. The percentage of attendance has, however, fallen from 83 to 82 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly. Thirteen of the 126 boys were Muhammadans. At the Entrance Examination 5 boys were sent up and passed, being placed 3 in the first and 2 in the second division.

Gauháti.— The number on the rolls on the 31st March, the average number on the rolls monthly, and the daily attendance rose from 311, 310, and 257 to 321, 324, and 268 respectively. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was practically 83 for the last two years. Of the 321 boys on the rolls 46 were Muhammadans, and all these boys have taken up Persian as their second language. Gauháti still stands second on the list of schools in the Province, having passed 9 boys out of 12 sent up to the Entrance Examination. Three boys from the first class attended the examination for admission into the mechanical class of the Sibpur Engineering College held at Gauháti in January, and were successful. The Chief Commissioner has granted scholarships of Rs. 10 per mensem to each of these boys, but only two boys can avail themselves of the scholarships this year, as the third boy did not join Sibpur in time.

Tezpur.—The number of boys on the rolls on the 31st March was 156, against 151, but the average number on the rolls monthly and the daily attendance fell from 164 and 133 to 155 and 128 respectively. The percentage of daily attendance on the average roll number monthly, however, rose from 81 to 82. There were only four Musalman boys in the school. Five, out of six sent up, passed at the Entrance Examination.

Nowgong.—There was a falling off in the roll number on the 31st March, in the average number on the rolls monthly, and in the average daily attendance, the figures being 190, 191, and 164, against 219, 199, and 172 respectively for the preceding year. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls was 85, against 86. Of the 190 boys on the rolls, 23 were Muhammadans. The Muhammadan community memorialised for a Maulvi, and the appointment of one has been sanctioned as an experimental measure from the beginning of the present session, *viz.*, the 16th June. Two candidates were sent up to the Entrance Examination, and passed in the third division.

There was rather a serious case of insubordination in this school in the autumn, and my thanks are due to Mr. Knox Wight, Deputy-Commissioner, for the prompt measures he took to restore order. I carefully enquired into the case when I visited the school in November, and came to the conclusion that discipline had been very lax for some time past, and that the case arose from the new head-master insisting on its maintenance. I have no doubt but that the present head-master will strictly maintain discipline, which I consider is as important a part of a boy's training as taking up mathematics or any other subject.

Jorhát.—The number of boys on the rolls fell from 277 to 236, with a corresponding decrease in the average number on the rolls monthly and daily attendance; but the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly rose from 78 to 84. The head-master attributes the falling off in the roll number to two causes: (1) that it was a very unhealthy year, no less than 7 boys of this school having died during the year, an unprecedentedly large mortality amongst schoolboys, (2) to the establishment of a private English school in the station, which drew away 25 boys from the school, and, no doubt, prevented many others from joining. Of the 236 boys, 34 were Muhammadans, and, of these, 29 have taken up Persian as their second language; the other five are mere beginners, and will take up Persian when they are promoted. Seven boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, five passed, and were placed, three in the first and two in the second division. According to merit mark, the school stands fifth on the list, being bracketted with Dhubri.

Sibságar.—The roll number on the 31st March shows a fall from 286 to 256, but there was a slight improvement in the average number on the rolls monthly and in the average daily attendance, which were 265 and 227, against 263 and 224 respectively in the preceding year. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was for both years the same, being 85 per cent. Of the 256 boys, 48 were Muhammadans. The head-master in his report has not stated how many of these have taken up Persian. Eleven boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, but only two passed. These were placed in the first and second division.

Dibrugarh.—The number on the rolls on the 31st March, the average number on the rolls monthly, and the average daily attendance rose from 243, 228, and 180 to 271, 274, and 224 respectively. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls also rose from 78 to 81. Of the 271 boys 26 were Muhammadans, six boys competed at the Entrance Examination, three passed, and were placed in the first division.

Barpeta, Aided.—The number of boys on the rolls fell from 156 to 136, the average number on the rolls monthly from 154 to 149, and the daily attendance from 131 to 129. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls rose from 85 to 86. The falling off in the roll number is attributed to the prevalence of malarious fever during the greater part of the year. Five candidates were sent up to the Entrance Examination, four of whom passed.

Habiganj Aided.—The number on the rolls on the 31st March, the average number on the rolls monthly, and the daily attendance have fallen from 239, 232, and 187 to 212, 205, and 161 respectively. The percentage of daily attendance on the average roll number has also fallen from 80 to 78. The falling off in this school is in a great measure due to the private high school (the Habiganj Institution) which was started in 1886. Eight boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, and four passed.

Habiganj Institution, Private.—The number of boys on the rolls on the 31st of March was 60, the average number on the rolls monthly 57, and the average daily attendance 26. Thus the percentage of daily attendance on the average roll number monthly was only 46, which compares very unfavourably with that of the Habiganj Aided School, which was 78, and speaks badly of the discipline in this school.

Five boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, and three passed. The school was started in 1886, and is quite close to the aided school. Its first class was recruited from the aided and other high schools, so that the manager cannot claim much credit for passing these three boys. I am quite satisfied that there is not room for two high schools at Habiganj and that the manager would advance education much more by combining his resources with the aided school, or spending his money on middle education in the mufassal, than by maintaining an opposition school.

Shillong Mission School.—There were 34 boys on the rolls on the 31st March, against 15 on the corresponding day last year; the average number on the rolls monthly and the average daily attendance have risen from 13 and 11 to 29 and 24 respectively; but the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls has fallen from 84 to 82. Six boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, of whom five passed: none of these are natives of the Khási Hills.

Review of boys' middle English schools, Government and aided, for the last five years.

41. The following statement shows the state of boys middle English schools, Government and aided, for the last five years:—

	Number of schools.	Roll number on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure.				Cost of educating each pupil.		
					Provincial.	Local and Municipal Funds.	Fees and other sources.	Total.	To the State.	To the Public.	Total.
Departmental Schools.					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1882-83	3	218	204	145	1,766	.....	1,496	3,262	8 10 6	7 5 4	15 15 10
1883-84	3	195	197	163	2,299	32	1,877	4,108	11 5 0	9 8 5	20 13 5
1884-85	3	259	218	177	2,152	32	1,607	3,791	11 0 4	7 5 11	17 6 3
1885-86	3	274	251	204	2,129	120	1,587	3,836	8 15 5	6 5 2	15 4 7
1886-87	3	242	230	191	2,348	120	1,830	4,298	10 11 8	7 15 4	18 11 0
Aided Schools.											
1882-83	26	2,065	1,829	1,391	117	8,338	14,384	22,899	4 10 6	7 13 10	12 8 9
1883-84	26	2,360	1,999	1,563	...	10,691	14,540	25,231	5 5 6	7 4 3	12 9 4
1884-85	24	2,249	1,972	1,514	...	10,872	15,809	26,684	5 8 3	8 0 0	13 8
1885-86	29	2,530	2,297	1,754	...	12,562	18,177	30,679	5 7 1	7 14 7	13 5 8
1886-87	29	2,559	2,326	1,748	464	12,511	17,953	30,928	5 9 3	7 11 6	13 4 1

I thought it useless to include the unaided schools in the foregoing table, as, with the exception of the four schools in the Khási and Jaintia Hills, they are adventure schools started on the expectation of receiving Government aid. Regarding the four schools, in the Khási and Jaintia Hills under the Welsh Mission, as pointed out in the Report for 1882-83, it simply rests with the Mission whether they debit part of their grant to these schools or not, and their doing so or not determines whether they are to be

classed as aided or unaided. By an extension of the same principle they could call any one of their primary schools an unaided school, by simply saying that no part of the Government grant had been expended on that school. The Mission gets a net grant of Rs. 6,000 for general education, which goes into their common fund, and at the end of the year is entered against certain schools. The fluctuation in the cost of educating pupils in schools depends on two variables : (1) the average number on the rolls monthly, which again in no small measure depends on the healthiness of the year, and (2) on the amount spent on repairs and renewals. Where the number of schools is large, this latter variable becomes practically a constant, as the repairs and renewals recur periodically, and it seldom would happen that all the schools would need repairs in the same year. Thus, we see that there is not much variation in the cost of educating each pupil in aided schools, except in the year 1885-86, when five schools were added to the list, and, in consequence, extra expenditure was entailed in starting these schools. But with the three departmental schools such is not the case. The cost varies from Rs. 20-13-5 in 1883-84 to Rs. 15-4-7 in 1885-86.

Statistics of boys' middle English schools.

42. The following table gives the principal particulars of boys' middle English schools for the year under report, and an abstract for the preceding year:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils. On rolls on 31st March.	Number of pupils. Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Number of pupils. Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Provincial.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Local and Municipal Funds.	Direct expenditure. From fees, fines, and other sources.	Direct expenditure. Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. To Government.	Cost of educating each pupil. To the Public.	Cost of educating each pupil. Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Departmental—											
Cachar	1	87	79	68	625	.....	387	1,012	7 14 7	4 14 5	12 13 0
Khási Hills.....	1	38	45	39	1,354	120	491	1,965	32 12 1	10 14 7	43 10 8
Sibságar	1	117	106	84	369	.....	952	1,321	3 7 8	8 15 8	12 7 4
Total Departmental Schools.	3	242	230	191	2,348	120	1,830	4,298	10 11 8	7 15 4	18 11 0
Ditto ditto for 1885-86.	3	274	251	204	2,129	120	1,587	3,836	8 15 5	6 5 2	15 4 7
Aided—											
Cachar	1	179	139	109	...	480	836	1,316	3 7 3	6 0 3	9 7 6
Sylhet	16	1,541	1,409	1,100	...	6,632	10,192	16,824	4 11 4	7 3 9	11 15 1
Goálpára	3	183	172	116	...	2,100	2,212	4,312	12 3 4	12 13 9	25 1 1
Kámrúp	2	119	107	80	...	810	1,008	1,818	7 9 1	9 6 9	16 15 10
Darrang	2	144	131	81	...	691	998	1,689	5 4 5	7 9 11	12 14 4
Nowgong	1	78	87	70	...	468	467	935	5 6 1	5 5 11	10 12 0
Sibságar	1	138	127	82	...	740	1,091	1,831	5 13 3	8 9 5	14 6 8
Lakhimpur.....	2	105	110	69	...	590	877	1,467	5 5 10	7 15 7	13 5 5
Manipur	1	72	44	41	464	.....	272	736	10 8 9	6 2 11	16 11 8
Total Aided Schools	29	2,559	2,326	1,748	464	12,511	17,953	30,928	5 9 3	7 11 6	13 4 9
Ditto ditto for 1885-86.	29	2,530	2,297	1,754	...	12,502*	18,177*	30,679*	5 7 1*	7 14 7*	13 5 8*
Unaided—											
Sylhet	5	312	265	230	...	.....	1,458	1,458	.....	5 4 3	5 4 3
Khási Hills	4	680	587	418	...	300	6,948	7,248	0 8 2	11 13 5	12 5 7
Sibságar	4	238	264	180	...	.....	742	742	.....	2 13 0	2 13 0
Total Unaided Schools.	13	1,230	1,116	828	...	300	9,148	9,448	0 4 4	8 3 1	8 7 5
Ditto ditto for 1885-86.	11	855	780	585	...	230	9,035	9,265	0 4 9	11 9 4	11 14 1
Grand Total of Departmental, aided, and unaided schools.	45	4,031	3,672	2,767	2,812	12,931	28,931	44,674	4 4 7	7 14 1	12 2 8
Ditto ditto for 1885-86.	43	3,659	3,328	2,543	2,129	12,852*	28,799*	43,780*	4 8 0*	8 10 5*	13 2 5

* These figures are different from those in the table of paragraph 47 of last year's report, as I found the expenditure on the Barpeta Aided High School was included in that of the two middle English schools in Kamrúp.

The number of departmental schools remained stationary, but the number of pupils and the attendance fell off. The Shillong and Golághát schools are responsible for this. In Shillong, it was, I believe, entirely due to dissensions between the head-master and the members of the Committee of Public Instruction; the members divided into two parties, one supporting the head-master, the other advocating that he should be removed. At the Committee meeting held to decide the question, the latter party gained the day, and Mr. Clarke transferred the Babu. The other party immediately got their friends to remove their children. A new head-master was nominated by the Committee, and Mr. Clarke appointed him; but he also fell foul of the Committee, and I had to transfer him. Later on the members of the Committee presented a memorial from some of the native residents of Shillong, praying that the school should be raised to the status of a high school, and further stating that under the present financial pressure, they did not ask for additional funds, but would undertake to work the school as a high school on its present average cost to Government. On my recommendation their petition was granted by the Chief Commissioner, and they are allowed a net grant of Rs. 1,400 for three years from the 1st April 1887, the Committee being responsible for the working of the school and its financial condition. The Inspector formally sanctions their proposals, and sees that they abide by departmental rules. The falling off in the Golághát School has not been satisfactorily explained in the district report; numerous causes are mentioned, but I don't think any of them are adequate. For the departmental schools the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 82, against 81 in the preceding year. Fees and other sources show an increase of Rs. 243. Of this, Rs. 200 was subscribed by the people towards the extension of the Shillong School, against Rs. 200 given by Government. The total increase in expenditure was Rs. 462, of which Rs. 400 was due to the school building, Shillong. The balance was divided between the Cachar (Hailákándi) and Golághát schools, wholly on account of repairs, &c.

The aided schools were 29, as in the preceding year, and the only change was the loss of a school in Sibságar, compensated by the gain of one at Manipur, which receives a Provincial grant. There is a gain of 29 in the number of pupils but a loss of 6 in the daily attendance. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 75, against 76 in the preceding year. The total expenditure was Rs. 30,928, against Rs. 30,679 in the preceding year. The receipts fell from Rs. 18,177 to Rs. 17,953, or by Rs. 224, or, excluding Manipur School, by Rs. 496. This is unsatisfactory, and was due to the districts of Darrang, Goálpára, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur. In Sibságar, the loss of a school accounts for the decrease; but in the other districts there have been no changes, and yet the district reports pass the matter over without comment. The expenditure from Local Funds remained practically the same, but there was an expenditure of Rs. 464 from Provincial on account of the Manipur School.

Mr. Clarke in last year's report commented on the unsatisfactory condition of the Goálpára School regarding its status. I may briefly state here that the school has, in accordance with the wishes of the people, been taken over by the department.

Comparison of aided middle English schools in the Surma and the Brahmaputra Valleys.

As in former reports, I give a table comparing the statistics of aided schools in the Surma and the Brahmaputra Valleys for the last two years:—

		Number of schools.	Roll number on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Expenditure. From local and municipal funds.	Expenditure. Fees, fines, and other sources.	Expenditure. Total.	Percentage of State on total expenditure.	Cost of educating each pupil. To the State.	Cost of educating each pupil. Other sources.	Cost of educating each pupil. Total.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Surma Valley	1885-86	17	1,651	1,463	1,126	6,684	10,610	17,294	38·65	4 9 1	7 4 0	11 13 1
	1886-87	17	1,720	1,548	1,209	7,112	11,028	18,140	39·20	4 9 6	7 2 0	11 11 6
Brahmaputra Valley	1885-86	12	879	834	628	5,818	7,567	13,385	43·47	6 15 7	9 1 2	16 0 9
	1886-87	11	767	734	498	5,399	6,653	12,052	44·80	7 5 8	9 1 0	16 6 8

The above shows that the number of pupils in the Surma Valley schools has increased by 4 per cent., and the daily attendance by 7 per cent. The average daily attendance has risen from 76 to 79 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly. Each school had, on an average, 97 pupils on its rolls; and the cost to the State has risen by ·55 per cent. of the total direct expenditure, while the cost of educating each pupil

remained practically the same in both years. In the schools in the Brahmaputra Valley the number of pupils has fallen by 12 per cent., and the daily attendance by 20 per cent. The average daily attendance also fell from 75 to 67 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly; each school had on an average 68 pupils on its rolls, and the cost to the State has risen by 3·47 per cent. of the total direct expenditure. But the cost of educating each pupil shows an increase of five annas eleven pie, and to the State six annas one pie. The loss of one school partly accounts for the decrease in the number of pupils; but the percentage of daily attendance was unaffected by this, and I am quite unable to explain its fall from 75 to 67 per cent. Comparing the two valleys, we see that Surma Valley schools are better attended and more popular than those in the Brahmaputra Valley. The average grant to each school in the Surma valley was Rs. 34·86, against Rs. 54·08 from private sources, and that in the Brahmaputra Valley was Rs. 40·9, against Rs. 50·4 from private sources.

The unaided schools were 13, against 11 in the preceding year, due to two new schools in Sylhet. The number of pupils increased from 855 to 1,230, the average number on the rolls monthly from 780 to 1,116, and the daily attendance from 585 to 825. The percentage of daily attendance on the number on the rolls monthly was 74, as in the preceding year.

For all classes of middle English schools the total expenditure has increased by Rs. 894, of which Rs. 132 was due to fees and other sources. In departmental schools the public defrayed 42 per cent. of the total expenditure, in aided schools 58 per cent. and for all schools combined 64 per cent., against 41 per cent., 59 per cent., and 66 per cent. for the preceding year. The percentage attendance in Government schools was better than that in ether aided or unaided, the figures being 83 per cent., 75 per cent., and 74 per cent. on the respective average number on the rolls monthly in these classes of schools.

Classification of pupils of boys' middle English schools according to religion.

43. Classified according to religion, the pupils of boys' middle English schools stood as follows for the last five years:—

Year.	Number on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Muhammadans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
1882-83 ...	2,992	2,048	68·45	420	14·04	524	17·51
1883-84 ...	3,471	2,449	70·56	513	14·77	509	14·67
1884-85 ...	3,548	2,495	70·32	575	16·21	478	13·47
1885-86 ...	3,659	2,549	69·66	548	14·98	562	15·36
1886-87 ...	4,031	2,727	67·65	679	16·84	625	15·51

The table shows that Hindus and Muhammadans were respectively 67 and 16 per cent. of the total number of pupils, against 69 and 14 per cent. for the preceding year, or that proportionately a greater number of Muhammadans joined these schools during the year than Hindus. The increase under "Others" is chiefly due to the increase of pupils in the four schools in the Khási and Jaintia Hills under the Welsh Mission, where the number of pupils rose from 577 to 680, a large majority of the new admissions being natives of these hills; indeed nearly all the pupils under this head ("Others") are Khásis, and that the Mission has no middle Vernacular schools explains the large number of pupils under this class in middle English schools, compared to that in middle Vernacular schools.

Stage of instruction.

44. Of the 4,031 pupils in middle English schools, 429, or 10 per cent., were in the middle stage, distributed to departmental schools, 23 per cent. in aided schools 12 per cent., and in unaided schools 4 per cent. 930, or 23 per cent., were in the upper primary stage, distributed—in departmental schools 31 per cent., in aided schools 21 per cent., and in unaided schools 24 per cent. The remaining pupils, namely, 2,672, or nearly 67 per cent., were in the lower primary stage. 2,198, or 54 per cent., of the pupils were reading English.

Middle English Scholarship Examination.

45. The following table shows what the middle English schools did at the Middle Scholarship Examination, English and Vernacular:—

District.	Number of middle English schools.				Number of schools sending examinees.								Number of examinees.								Number passed.								Number who gained middle English scholarships.	Number who gained middle Vernacular scholarships.
					Departmental.		Aided.		Unaided.		Total.		Departmental.		Aided.		Unaided.		Total.		Departmental.		Aided.		Unaided.		Total.			
	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.		
Cachar	1	1	..	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	2	2	2	1	5	7	..	..	7	8	..	1	4	5	..	..	4	6	1	1
Sylhet	..	16	5	21	..	..	14	14	1	..	15	14	..	..	26	43	2	..	28	43	..	..	18	31	..	..	18	31	7	6
Khási and Jaintia Hills.	1	..	4	5	1	1	..	..	1	1	2	2	5	..	..	..	8	..	13	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	1	..
Goálpára	..	3	..	3	..	..	3	3	..	..	3	3	..	..	4	8	..	..	4	8	..	..	2	3	..	..	2	3	..	..
Kámrúp	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	2
Nowgong	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Sibsagar	1	1	4	6	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	5	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nága Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manipur	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total....	3	29	13	45	3	2	23	20	2	1	28	23	12	1	44	66	10	..	66	67	3	1	24	43	1	..	28	44	20	9

The foregoing statement shows that out of 45 middle English schools 28 competed and 23 succeeded in passing candidates at either the Middle English or Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examinations. Sixty-six examinees were sent up to the Middle English Scholarship Examination, and, of these, 28 were successful, and to 9 of these middle English scholarships were awarded. The remaining 19 successful candidates were ineligible for scholarships, as they either failed to obtain the minimum scholarship marks in one or more compulsory subjects, or were over age. Sixty-seven examinees were sent to the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination, and 44 passed. Nine of these received Middle Vernacular Scholarships. Out of the 28 successful candidates at the Middle English Scholarships Examination only 2 were from the Brahmaputra Valley schools and neither of those were eligible for scholarships; and out of the 44 candidates who passed the middle Vernacular test, only 7 were from the Brahmaputra Valley, and not one of them was eligible for scholarships.

It it thus seen that the results of the examination were highly discreditable to the Brahmaputra Valley schools. Their want of success is mainly due to the following reasons: (1) inefficiency of local management, (2) the employment of unqualified teachers. This I specially remarked at the North Lakhimpur and Mangaldai aided schools. The Local Boards in both these sub-divisions are quite aware that the English masters are unqualified for the posts they hold, but the managers plead as an excuse for retaining them the difficulty of obtaining qualified men on the pay they can afford to give.

Review of boys' middle Vernacular schools, Government and aided, for the last five years.

46. The following statement shows the state of boys' middle Vernacular schools, Government and aided, for the last five years:—

	Number of schools.	Roll number on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure.				Cost of educating each pupil.		
					Provincial.	Local and Municipal Funds.	Fees.	Total.	To the State.	To the puplic.	Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Departmental—											
1882-83	17	1,369	1,245	1,005	7,226	.....	4,218	11,444	5 12 10	3 6 3	9 3 1
1883-84	17	1,468	1,308	1,053	7,926	.....	4,823	12,749	6 0 11	3 11 0	9 11 11
1884-85	16	1,498	1,330	1,080	8,001	233	5,194	13,428	6 3 0	3 14 6	10 1 6
1885-86	16	1.361*	1,283*	1,070*	8,767*	609	5,025	14,401*	*7 4 11	*3 14 8	11* 3 7
1886-87	16	1,495	1,278	1,040	8,622	207	4,751	13,580	6 14 6	3 11 5	10 10 0
Aided—											
1882-83	25	1,535	1,481	1,157	101	4,532	6,642	11,173	3 2 0	4 7 9	7 9 9
1883-84	28	1,901	1,670	1,254	.....	5,731	7,387	13,118	3 6 11	4 6 9	7 13 8
1884-85	26	1,845	1,676	1,293	.....	5,865	7,223	13.088	3 8 0	4 4 11	7 12 11
1885-86	26	1,756	1,621	1,266	.....	5,772	7,439	13,211	3 9 0	4 9 5	8 2 0
1886-87	29	1,789	1,672	1,290	.....	6,195	7,947	14,144	3 11 4	4 12 1	8 7 5

* Includes the pupils and expenditure on the training class attached to the normal school, Nowgong.

The figures for the year 1885-86 for departmental schools includes the pupils of the training class attached to the Nowgong School as also the expenditure on this class. It is this that has raised the total expenditure and the cost of educating each pupil above that of any year in the cycle. I would have excluded them from the above and subsequent tables, but have not sufficient data for doing so. A general view of the table shows that there has been a slight but steady increase in the number of pupils in both classes of schools, attended with a corresponding increase in the expenditure.

Statistics of middle Vernacular schools.

47. The following table gives the principal particulars of middle Vernacular schools for the year under report and an abstract for the preceding year:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils. On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Provincial.	Local and Municipal Funds.	From fees, fines, and other sources.	Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. To Government.	To the public.	Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs. A. P	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
DEPARTMENTAL—											
Cachar	2	71	47	37	711	.....	109	820	15 2 1	2 5 1	17 7 2
Sylhet	3	175	145	114	921	.....	262	1,183	6 5 7	1 12 11	8 2
Kámrúp	5	416	426	331	2,479	55	1,516	4,050	5 15 2	3 8 11	9 8 1
Darrang	2	222	188	148	1,309	.....	653	1,962	6 15 5	3 7 7	10 7 0
Nowgong	1	152	137	117	1,048	.....	498	1,546	7 0 4	3 10 2	11 4 6
Sibságar	1	168	143	128	1,020	.....	717	1,737	7 2 1	5 0 3	12 2 4
Lakhimpur	2	233	192	165	1,134	152	996	2,282	6 11 2	5 3 0	11 14 2
Total Departmental Schools	16	1,495	1,278	1,040	8,622	207	4,751	13,580	6 14 6	3 11 6	10 10 0
Ditto ditto for 1885-86	16	1,361	1,283	1,076	8,767	609	5,025	14,401	7 4 11	3 14 8	11 8 7
AIDED—											
Cachar	1	45	39	31	....	150	120	270	3 13 6	3 1 3	6 14 9
Sylhet	9	839	716	586	....	2,079	3,640	5,719	2 14 5	5 1 4	7 15 9
Goálpára	9	366	368	264	....	1,734	2,304	4,038	4 11 5	6 4 3	10 15 8
Kámrúp	5	264	277	200	....	1,104	951	2,055	3 15 9	3 6 11	7 6 8
Darrang	2	105	86	85	....	400	286	686	4 10 5	3 5 3	7 15 8
Nowgong	2	140	157	122	....	490	489	979	3 1 11	3 1 10	6 3 9
Lakhimpur	1	30	29	22	....	240	157	397	8 4 5	5 6 7	13 11 0
Total Aided Schools	29	1,789	1,672	1,290	....	6,197	7,947	14,144	3 11 4	4 12 1	8 7 5
Ditto ditto for 1885-86	26	1,756	1,621	1,266	....	5,772	7,439	13,211	3 9 0	4 9 5	8 2 0
UNAIDED—											
Goalpára	1	76	71	60	....	.....	939	939	.....	13 3 7	13 3 7
Sibsagar	1	95	81	51	....	.....	35	35	.....	0 6 11	0 6 11
Total Unaided Schools	2	171	152	111	....	.....	974	974	.....	6 6 6	6 6 6
Ditto ditto for 1885-86	1	68	64	47	...	.....	948	948	.....	14 13 0	14 13 0
Grand Total of Departmental, Aided, and Unaided Schools	47	3,455	3,102	2,441	8,622	6,404	13,672	28,698	4 13 6	4 6 8	9 4 2
Ditto ditto for 1885-86	43	3,185	2,968	2,389	8,767	6,381	13,412	28,560	5 1 8	4 8 4	9 10 0

During the year under report there has been no changes in the departmental schools. The number of pupils on the rolls increased, but the average number on the rolls monthly and the daily attendance decreased. Comparing with the similar table for the preceding year, we find that in all districts except Sylhet, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur, that there has been a decrease in the daily attendance, so I think this must be attributed to the general unhealthiness of the year. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 81, against 83. The collection from fees has fallen off by Rs. 274. In Cachar the loss has been Rs. 122, caused, I believe, by the transfer of the departmental middle Vernacular school from Silchar to Katigora. In Kámrúp the decrease was Rs. 202. No cause has been assigned for this in the district report, and is remarkable, and as the average number of pupils on the rolls monthly was 426, against 421, there should thus have been, if anything, a slight increase in the receipts from fees. In Sibságar the receipts show a loss of Rs. 111, which is accounted for by the loss of 27 pupils on an average every month.

The aided schools rose from 26 to 29 the increase being due to two new grants-in-aid in Goálpára and one in Nowgong. There was a slight increase in the number of pupils and daily attendance, but not at all proportionate to the increase of schools. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 77, against 78 in the preceding year, a loss of 1 per cent., which is exactly the same as in aided middle English schools. No doubt the high floods and unhealthiness of the season had a great influence on this. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 933, but Rs. 1,119 were expended on the three schools that received grants during the year. Thus, the

expenditure on old schools was less than that in the preceding year by Rs. 186. The increased cost of educating each pupil needs no comment.

Comparison of aided middle Vernacular schools in the Surma and Brahmaputra Valleys.

As in former reports, I subtend a statement comparing the aided middle Vernacular schools in both valleys:—

	Year.	Number of schools.	Roll number on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Expenditure. From Local and Municipal Funds.	Expenditure. Fee, fines, and other sources.	Expenditure. Total.	Percentage of State on total expenditure.	Cost of educating each pupil. To the State.	Cost of educating each pupil. Other sources.	Cost of educating each pupil. Total.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Surma Valley	1885-86	10	882	789	640	2,285	3,624	5,909	38·67	2 14 4	4 9 6	7 7 10
	1886-87	10	884	755	617	2,229	3,760	5,989	37·22	2 15 3	4 15 8	7 14 11
Brahmaputra Valley	1885-86	16	874	822	626	3,487	3,815	7,302	47·75	4 3 1	4 9 4	8 12 5
	1886-87	19	905	917	673	3,968	4,187	8,155	48·66	4 5 3	4 9 1	8 14 4

In the Surma Valley there was no change in the number of schools, but a small falling off in the average number on the rolls monthly, which slightly increased the cost of educating each pupil. In the Brahmaputra Valley there was an increase of three schools and 31 pupils; but as the average number of pupils to a school in 1885-86 was nearly 55, the increase in pupils was not proportionate to the schools; the increase in the average number on the rolls, and the daily attendance, was proportionately better, and thus the cost of educating each pupil shows but a slight increase. Comparing the two valleys, we find, on an average, 88 pupils to a school in the Surma Valley, against 47 in the Brahmaputra Valley; the percentage of daily attendance on the average roll number monthly was 82 against 73; the average grant to each school in the Surma Valley was Rs. 18·5, against Rs. 31·3 from private sources, and that in the Brahmaputra Valley Rs. 17·4 against Rs. 18·6 from private sources, showing, as in the case of aided midle English schools, that the people of Sylhet, for Cachar has only one school, and that badly supported, are more liberal in their support of middle Vernacular education than the people of the Brahmaputra Valley. The reason of this is not far to seek. In Sylhet there are many zemindárs who liberally support secondary education; in the Assam Valley, with the exception of Goálpára, there are none, and we find that out of 19 aided middle Vernacular schools in the Assam Valley 9 are in Goálpára. The only *bonâ-fide* unaided middle Vernacular school in the Province is also in Goálpára, wholly supported from the Bijni estate. The one in Sibságar is little better than a *pathsala*, and has been started, or rather raised from the status of a lower primary school to that of a middle by the teachers, with the hope of getting a grant-in-aid. I don't believe the people care about it, nor do I think that they will come forward with the necessary subscriptions in order to entitle them to a grant.

For all classes of middle Vernacular schools there was an increase of 4 schools and 270 pupils. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 138, fees increased by Rs. 260, which shows that the cost to Government fell by Rs. 122. In departmental schools the public defrayed nearly 35 per cent. of the total expenditure, in aided schools 56 per cent., and for all combined nearly 48 per cent.

Classification of pupils of boys' middle Vernacular schools according to religion.

48. Classified according to religion, the pupils of boys' middle Vernacular schools stood as follows for the last five years. The changes are so slight that they do not need comments :—

Year.	Roll number on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Muhammadans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
1882-83	3,088	2,495	80·80	541	17·52	52	1·68
1883-84	3,462	2,837	81·95	561	16·17	65	1·88
1884-85	3,434	2,736	79·67	601	17·50	97	2·83
1885-86	3,185	2,594	81·44	513	16·12	78	2·44
1886-87	3,455	2,801	81·07	563	16·29	91	2·64

Stage of instruction.

49. Of the 3,455 pupils, 487, or 14 per cent., were in the middle stage, distributed, in departmental and aided schools 14 per cent., and in unaided schools 4 per cent. 740, or 21 per cent., were in the upper primary stage, distributed, in departmental schools 24 per cent., in aided schools 20 per cent., and in unaided schools 6 per cent. The remaining pupils, 2,228, or nearly 65 per cent., were in the primary stage.

Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination.

50. The following table shows the result of the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination for middle Vernacular schools. Middle English schools that competed for this examination are excluded from this table :—

District.	Number of middle Vernacular schools.				Number of schools sending examinees.								Number of examinees.				Number passed.				Number who gained middle Vernacular scholarships.
					Departmental.		Aided.		Unaided.		Total.										
	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	
Cachar	2	1	..	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	1	4	..	5	....	1	..	1*	
Sylhet	3	9	..	12	2	2	9	7	..	..	11	9	3	48	..	51	3	29	..	32*	1
Goálpára	..	9	1	10	..	..	7	3	1	1	8	4	..	12	6	18	....	4	3	7	8
Kámrúp.....	5	5	..	10	5	5	4	2	..	..	9	7	33	16	..	49	16	4	..	20	5
Darrang ..	2	2	..	4	2	2	1	..	..	..	3	2	14	3	..	17	5	..	..	5	1
Nowgong	1	2	..	3	1	1	1	1	..	..	2	2	8	2	..	10	5	1	..	6	3
Sibságar	1	..	1	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	1	5	..	..	5	1	..	..	1	..
Lakhimpur ..	2	1	..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	6	..	..	6	2	..	..	2	1
Total	16	29	2	47	14	12	23	14	2	1	39	27	70	85	6	161	32	39	3	74	21

* Does not include one private student, who has passed.

The number of competing schools was 39, against 35 in the preceding year. The number of successful schools 27, against 30. Out of 161 candidates sent up, 74 were successful, against 90 out of 156 in the preceding year. Departmental schools passed 32 out of 74 successful candidates, and have thus nearly regained their old position. Sibságar is still conspicuous for its bad results, closely followed by Dibrugarh.

(b) Primary Schools for Boys.

Comparison of boys' primary schools for the past two years.

51. The changes that occurred in this class of schools during the year under report are shown in the subjoined table:—

Upper Primary Schools for Boys.

	1885-86.			1886-87.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.
Local Fund ...	15	584	39	17	723	43
Aided	81	3,534	44	88	3,443	39
Unaided	3	160	53	4	241	60
Total	99	4,278	43	109	4,407	40

Lower Primary Schools for Boys.

	1885-86.			1886-87.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.
Departmental ...	25	347	14	22	303	14
Local Fund ...	1,170	34,224	29	1,225	35,210	29
Aided	255	6,730	26	325	9,217	28
Unaided ...	75	1,914	26	68	1,769	26
Total... ...	1,525	4,3215	28	1,640	46,499	28

The upper primary schools for boys have increased by 10, and the pupils by 129, but the average number of pupils to a school has decreased by 3, which was wholly due to aided schools, where the number fell from 44 to 39. The lower primary schools for boys increased by 115, the pupils by 3,284, while the average number of pupils to a school remained steady. The total increase for both classes was, therefore, 125 schools and 3,413 pupils, or schools and pupils have increased by 7 per cent.

Statistics for upper primary schools for boys.

52. The following table shows the particulars of upper primary schools for boys, district by district:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils. On rolls on 31st March.	Number of pupils. Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Number of pupils. Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Provincial.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Local and Municipal Funds.	Direct expenditure. Other sources.	Direct expenditure. Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. To Government.	Cost of educating each pupil. To the Public.	Cost of educating each pupil. Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Local Board Schools—											
Cachar	1	83	33	21	....	143	61	204	4 5 4	1 13 7	6 2 11
Sylhet	2	84	65	50	....	200	66	266	3 1 3	1 0 3	4 1 6
Kámrup	12	562	532	401	....	1,342	718	2,060	2 8 4	1 5 7	3 13 11
Sibságar	2	44	51	37	....	240	56	296	4 11 4	1 1 7	5 12 11
Total Local Board Schools	17	723	681	509	....	1,925	901	2,826	2 13 3	1 5 2	4 2 5
Ditto ditto for 1885-86	15	584	575	442	17	1,766	914	2,697	3 1 7	1 9 5	4 11 0
Aided—											
Cachar	5	158	161	118	....	620	316	936	8 13 7	1 15 5	5 13 0
Sylhet	31	1,245	1,131	877	....	3,653	3,854	7,507	3 3 8	3 6 6	6 10 2
Goálpára	18	530	532	378	....	2,033	1,318	3,351	3 13 2	2 7 8	6 4 10
Kamrúp	2	128	119	83	....	240	192	432	2 0 3	1 9 10	3 10 1
Darrang	5	210	174	116	....	545	672	1,217	3 2 1	3 13 10	6 15 11
Nowgong	11	547	531	405	....	1,281	593	1,874	2 6 7	1 1 11	3 8 6
Sibságar	10	412	383	291	....	1,104	649	1 753	2 14 1	1 11 1	4 9 2
Lakhimpur	6	213	233	150	....	680	549	1,229	2 14 8	2 5 8	5 4 4
Total Aided Schools	88	3,443	3,264	2,418	....	10,156	8,143	18,299	3 1 9	2 7 11	5 9 8
Ditto ditto for 1885-86	81	3,534	3,205	2,316	....	9,291	7,935	17,226	2 14 4	2 7 7	5 5 11
Unaided—											
Sylhet	4	241	214	173	....	.....	480	480	.....	2 3 11	2 3 11
Total Unaided Schools	4	241	214	173	....	.....	480	480	.....	2 3 11	2 3 11
Ditto ditto for 1885-86	3	160	141	118	....	.....	181	181	.....	1 4 6	1 4 6
Grand Total of Upper Primary Schools	109	4,407	4,159	3,100	....	12,081	9,524	21,605	2 14 6	2 4 8	5 3 2
Ditto ditto for 1885-86.	99	4,278	3,921	2,876	17	11,057	9,030	20,104	2 13 2	2 4 10	5 2 0

Local Board upper primary schools for boys increased by two, due to the subdivision of Sunámganj, where the Local Board got special sanction for starting these schools on an expenditure of Rs. 20 each from Local Funds. The number of pupils increased by 139, and the daily attendance by 67, which was 74 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly, against 76 per cent. for the preceding year. The total expenditure on these schools increased by Rs. 129, and that to the State by Rs. 142. This latter was due to the two new schools in Sylhet. The receipts show a loss of Rs. 13, for which Sibságar is chiefly responsible.

The aided schools increased by 7, but the number of pupils on the rolls on 31st March decreased by 91. This, however, was compensated for by an increase of 59 and 102, respectively, in the average number on the rolls and daily attendance. The latter rose from 72 to 74 per cent. on the average number on the rolls monthly. The total expenditure on these schools shows an increase of Rs. 1,073, of which Rs. 865 was debitable to the State, the balance, Rs. 208, was realised from fees, fines, and other sources. The increased expenditure to the State was in the exact proportion to the number of schools that received grants during the year. The unaided schools were 4, against 3 in the preceding year. It is remarkable that all these schools, as in former years, are in Sylhet. This bears out my remarks in paragraph 46, under middle schools. The total expenditure on all upper primary schools came to Rs. 21,605, of which Rs. 9,524, or 44 per cent., was covered by receipts, distributed to departmental schools 32 per cent. and to aided schools 44 per cent.

Result of the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination for boys' upper primary schools.

53. Candidates for the upper primary pass certificate from secondary schools are excluded from the subjoined table, which shows the result of the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination for boys' upper primary schools alone:—

District.	Number of schools on 31st March.	Number of schools which sent up candidates.	Number of candidates who competed.	Number of schools from which candidates passed.	Number of candidates who were passed. In the first division.	In the second division.	In the third division.	Total.	Number of scholarsips awarded.
Cachar	6	6	18	5	3	3	4	10	.....
Sylhet	37	26	89	25	17	24	28	69	18
Goálpára	18	4	11	3	2	5	3	10	4
Kámrúp	14	13	52	13	8	16	8	32	11
Darrang	5	2	14	2	4	6	2	12	3
Nowgong	11	10	66	10	8	19	15	42	6
Sibságar	12	10	36	8	1	11	4	16	4
Lakhimpur	6	2	10	2	.....	2	3	5	.....
Total	109	73	296	68	43	86	67	196	46

This return does not include two private students who passed from Sylhet.

Of the 73 schools which sent up examinees, 68 were successful, and of the 296 candidates 196, or 66 per cent., passed the examination. The table in last year's report includes the candidates for pass certificates from secondary schools, so that a comparison with it would be fruitless, but one point worthy of remark in the above result is the large number that passed in the first division. Besides the upper primary schools, 11 secondary schools sent up 37 candidates for pass certificates, of whom 31 were successful.

Statistics of boys' lower primary schools.

54. The following table shows the principal particulars of boys' lower primary schools, district by district. The returns for the aided schools in the Nága Hills under the Mission have not been received, so the expenditure on this head, *viz.*, Rs. 235 from provincial, has been excluded from the totals and also in calculating the cost of educating each pupil in the table:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils. On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Expenditure. From Government. Provincial.	Local and Municipal.	Other sources.	Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. To Government.	To the public.	Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Departmental—											
Garo Hills	2	24	71	24	252	.....	.....	252	3 8 9	.....	3 8 9
Darrang	19	262	248	198	742	.....	127	869	2 15 11	0 8 2	3 8 1
Nága Hills	1	17	12	12	96	.....	.....	96	8 0 0	.....	8 0 0
Total	22	303	331	234	1,090	.....	127	1,217	3 4 8	0 6 2	3 10 10
Ditto for 1885 86	25	347	332	252	1,229	.....	90	1,319	3 11 3	0 4 4	3 15 7
Local Fund and Municipal—											
Cachar	123	3,069	2,987	2,007	....	8,317	928	9,245	2 12 7	0 5 0	3 1 7
Sylhet	242	8,728	7,758	5,832	....	16 263	4,926	21,189	2 1 6	0 10 2	2 11 8
Goálpára	118	2,585	2,823	1,987	....	7,365	1,786	9,151	2 9 9	0 10 1	3 3 10
Kamrúp	268	7,404	7,044	5,109	....	15,196	2,953	18,149	2 2 6	0 6 8	2 9 2
Darrang	90	2,458	2,094	1,340	....	5,088	526	5,614	2 6 11	0 4 0	2 10 11
Nowgong	130	4,060	3,876	2,697	....	8,897	1,029	9,926	2 4 9	0 4 3	2 9 0
Sibsagar	176	5,064	4,582	3,246	....	9,719	1,277	10,996	2 1 11	0 4 6	2 6 5
Lakhimpur	78	1,842	1,726	1,236	....	5,035	697	5,732	2 14 8	0 6 7	3 5 3
Total	1,225	35,210	32,890	23,454	....	75,880	14,122	90,002	2 4 11	0 6 10	2 11 9
Ditto for 1885 86	1,170	34,224	31,642	23,208	....	70,764	15,635	86,399	2 3 9	0 7 11	2 11 8
Aided—											
Sylhet	181	6,102	5,456	4,252	....	3,772	3,853	7,625	0 11 1	0 11 4	1 6 5
Khási Hills	107	2,505	2,516	1.553	5,405	.....	13,494	18,899	2 2 5	5 5 10	7 8 3
Gáro ditto	30	398	421	359	1,459	.....	1,050	2,509	3 7 5	2 7 10	5 15 3
Goalpára	7	212	199	120	278	93	297	668	1 13 10	1 7 11	3 5 9
Naga Hills		Returns not received.			....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	325	9,217	8,592	6,264	7,142	3,865	18,694	29,701	1 4 6	2 2 10	3 7 4
Ditto for 1885-86	255	6,730	6,383	4,625	7,841	2,070	15,698	25,249	1 7 11	2 7 4	3 15 3
Total of Departmental, Local, and Aided *Pathsálas.*	1,572	44,730	41,813	29,952	8,232	79,745	32,943	120,920	2 1 8	0 12 7	2 14 3
Ditto ditto ditto for 1885-86.	1,450	41,301	38,357	28,085	8,710	72,834	31,423	112,967	2 2 0	0 13 2	2 15 2
Unaided—											
Cachar	2	67	55	44	....	.....	2	2	.....	0 0 7	0 0 7
Sylhet	50	1,318	1,183	992	....	.....	525	525	.....	0 7 1	0 7 1
Goálpára	6	96	90	85	....	.....	35	35	.....	0 6 3	0 6 3
Kamrup	1	20	18	17	....	.....	2	2	.....	0 1 9	0 1 9
Nowgong	3	88	95	65	....	.....	13	13	.....	0 2 2	0 2 2
Sibságar	3	73	69	60	....	.....	6	6	.....	0 1 5	0 1 5
Lakhimpur	3	107	95	77	....	.....	16	16	.....	0 2 8	0 2 8
Total	68	1,769	1,605	1,340	....	.....	599	599	.....	0 6 0	0 6 0
Total of unaided *Pathsálas* for 1885-86.	75	1,914	1,738	1,425	....	.....	582	582	.....	0 5 4	0 5 4
Grand Total	1,640	46,499	43,418	31,292	8,232	79,745	33,542	1,21,519	2 0 5	0 12 4	2 12 9
Ditto for 1885-86	1,525	43,215	40,095	29,510	8,710	72,834	32,005	1,13,549	2 0 7	0 12 9	2 13

The departmental schools are those under the direct administration, (1) of the Deputy-Commissioners of the Gáro and the Nága Hills, and (2) those under the Secretary of the Gospel Mission, Darrang, for the education of Kacharis. The aided schools are, (1) those under the direct administration of the missionary bodies in Khási and Jaintia Hills, the Gáro Hills, the Nága Hills, and the Sonthal colony in Goálpára; (2) those *páthsálas* in Sylhet which are paid under the reward rules and to which no fixed pay is given. The unaided schools are, broadly speaking, *páthsálas* started by ex-pupils with the hopes of obtaining State aid in some form or other.

Excluding the unaided schools, there has been an increase of 122 schools and 3,429 pupils, or 8 per cent., in schools and pupils. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly fell from 73 to 71. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 7,953, of which Rs. 1,520 was covered by receipts from fees and other sources, leaving a net increase to the State of Rs. 6,433, or Rs. 53 per new school. The unaided schools were 68, with 1,769 pupils, against 75 schools, with 1,914 pupils, in the preceding year. Comparing the corresponding table for unaided schools in last year's report, we find that the number of these schools has fallen in every district except Sylhet, where it has increased from 37, with 1,036 pupils to 50, with 1,318 pupils.

Excluding the unaided schools, the total expenditure came to Rs. 1,20,920, against Rs. 1,12,967 in the preceding year. The contributions from the public were Rs. 32,943, against Rs. 31,423; thus, 27 per cent. of the total expenditure in both years was covered by the receipts from fees, subscriptions, and other sources.

Lower Primary Scholarship Examination for boys' schools.

55. The following table, which excludes candidates from secondary and upper primary schools, who competed for pass certificates, shows the district results of the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination for boys' schools:—

District.	Number of primary schools which sent up candidates.		Number of candidates who competed.		Number of schools from which candidates passed.		Number of candidates who were passed: In the first division.		In the second division.		In the third division.		Total.		Number of scholarships awarded.	
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.
Cachar	69	58	184	149	54	38	40	22	36		13	9	89	64	14	14
Sylhet	164	212	535	709	148	164	273	178	111	157	23	55	407	390	30	31
Khási and Jaintia Hills	24	23	73	49	18	18	31	28	15	6	3	2	49	36	5	2
Goálpára	67	43	165	76	37	30	16	3	24	24	18	16	58	43	12	14
Kámrúp	157	181	477	582	111	122	90	115	94	119	41	45	225	279	30	32
Darrang	44	38	131	146	31	29	58	6	34	28	10	14	102	48	12	14
Nowgong	91	81	322	327	59	60	22	128	62	65	42	16	126	209	10	11
Sibságar	69	77	212	200	46	49	33	41	42	50	26	16	101	107	24	27
Lakhimpur	32	31	126	116	20	27	12	20	17	29	12	21	41	70	10	10
Total	717	744	2,225	2,354	524	537	575	541	435	511	188	194	1,198	1,246	147	155

The Sadr Local Boards for each district appoint the examiners for this examination, and the award of scholarships rests with Deputy-Commissioners. The standard arrived at by each district varies so much that it would be useless to compare one district with another. Progress can hence only be seen by comparing the results of a district with that of the preceding year. For the whole Province 744 boys' schools competed, and, of these, 537 succeeded in passing candidates. 2,354 examinees were sent up, and, of these, 1,246 were successful. The results for 1885-86 include secondary, upper primary, and girls' schools, so no definite comparison can be made; but even comparing the results of the year under report with the gross results for all schools for the preceding year, we find there is a decided advance. From 27 secondary and upper primary boys' schools 117 candidates were sent up for pass certificates, and, of these, 24 schools and 81 candidates were successful. Twelve girls' schools also sent up 35 girls, and 7 of these succeeded in passing 21 girls. The particulars of these will be mentioned under female education, Section VI.

In Cachar the number of examinees and those passed has fallen off. The Deputy-Inspector says this is chiefly due to his having generally made known the rule that boys over 12 years of age are not eligible for scholarships, that in other years many boys who had passed the examination but failed to get a scholarship, and whose age was above 12, went in a second time with the hope of getting a scholarship; but, on understanding the rule, such boys did not compete at the last examination. The middle schools in the Khási Hills passed 28 examinees, and Goálpára passed 16 from boys' schools other than lower primary, which accounts for the apparent decrease in these districts. The great falling off in Darrang from 102 to 48 passed candidates has not even been noticed

in the district report, and I am unable to give any reasons. Leaving out certificate candidates and girls' schools, all other districts show improvement over last year.

The sanctioned number of lower primary scholarships is 147, besides which, each district may give extra scholarships up to 10 per cent. of the sanctioned number, to be met from the savings under short drawings under this head. The total number of scholarships that may be granted is, therefore, 164. To boys' schools 155 and to girls' schools 7 lower primary scholarships were awarded.

Classification of pupils in upper and lower boys' primary schools according to religion.

56. The following table shows the classification of the pupils in upper and lower boys' primary schools according to religion:—

District.	Number of pupils, on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Muhammadans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
Cachar	3,327	1,499	45·06	745	22·39	1,083	32·55
Sylhet	17,718	11,891	67·11	5,258	29·68	569	3·21
Khási Hills	2,505	53	2·12	5	·20	2,447	97·68
Gáro „	422	104	24·64	41	9·72	277	65·64
Goálpára	3,423	2,264	66·14	606	17·70	553	16·16
Kámrúp	8,114	7,035	86·70	797	9·82	282	3·48
Darrang	2,930	2,340	79·86	138	4·71	452	15·43
Nowgong	4,695	3,996	85·11	210	4·47	489	10·42
Nága Hills	17	14	82·35	.....	.....	3	17·65
Sibságar	5,593	5,113	91·42	232	4·15	248	4·43
Lakhimpur	2,162	1,484	68·64	46	2·13	632	29·23
Total ...	50,906	35,793	70·31	8,078	15·87	7,035	13·82
Total 1885-86 ...	47,493	33,050	69·59	7,488	15·77	6,955	14·64

The totals for the year 1885-86 differ from those in the table in paragraph 66 of last year's report, in so much that that table includes all primary schools, both boys and girls, while the above is for boys' primary schools alone. On the whole, there is little change. The percentage of Hindus increased slightly more than Muhammadans, while that of others fell off. Comparing the figures with the corrected figures for last year, Sylhet and Kámrúp are the only districts in which the number of Musalman children attending these schools has increased. Cachar shows the largest falling off.

Stage of instructions of boys' upper and lower primary schools.

57. Full details of the stage of instruction of pupils in boys' upper and lower primary schools are given in General Table V. Out of 50,906 pupils, 1,163 were in the upper primary stage, against 1,233 out of 47,493 in the preceding year. The balance were in the lower primary stage, *viz.*, 40,611 learning from printed books, and 9,132 not using printed books, against 36,864 and 9,423 in the preceding year.

58. I now give a brief summary of the state of primary education in each district.

59. *Cachar.*—There has been a loss of two aided boys' upper primary schools and 79 pupils, due to the managers having failed to pay the guaranteed amount. The result of the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination was decidedly bad, not one of the 10 boys who passed was qualified for a scholarship. I am satisfied that the want of success of this class of schools in this district is due (1) to inefficient local management, and (2) to the employment of unqualified teachers. Without substantial local subscriptions, the managers cannot afford to employ qualified men. The total expenditure came to Rs. 1,140, of which Rs. 377, or 33 per cent., was realised from fees, fines, and other sources.

Boys' lower primary schools were 123 Local Fund schools with 3,069 pupils, and 2 unaided with 67 pupils, total 125 schools with 3,136 pupils, against 140 schools with 3,565 pupils, a loss of 15 schools and 429 pupils. The schools that closed were either very badly attended, or so close to existing schools, that the Local Boards did not consider themselves justified in keeping them up. Of the 125 schools 11 (in the Sadr 5, in Hailákándi 6) were tea-garden schools with 229 pupils, against 12 such schools with 302 pupils in the preceding year. The system of payments on the results of examinations combined with fixed pay is partly in force, but has proved a failure. I do not believe it could have succeeded on the plan adopted, which, briefly, was to select individual schools, and if they did not at once succeed in earning as much under the combined system as they would have received under the old system of fixed monthly pay, to transfer them back to the list of fixed pay schools. Teachers were naturally disheartened when they saw a neighbouring teacher, perhaps not a mile distant, on a fixed monthly pay getting as much, or more, as they did without any extra work. They, therefore, were careless, knowing that if they could only show bad results at the examination for rewards, that they would be placed again on the list of fixed pay. The Local Boards thus seem to me to have held out a premium for bad results, and the chance of earning more under the Reward Rules was not a sufficient stimulus to these *gurus* to resist the temptation of failure at the examination, rewarded by a certain, though small, income.

	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sadr	83	69
Hailákándi	57	56
Total	140	125

60. *Sylhet.*—Boys' upper primary schools were 37 schools with 1,570 pupils, against 33 schools with 1,426 pupils, a gain of 4 schools and 144 pupils. Four of the schools with 241 pupils were unaided. Sylhet is the only district in which there are unaided upper primaries. The schools did well at the scholarship examination. The total cost of these schools was Rs. 8,253, of which Rs. 4,400, or 53 per cent., were realised from fees and other sources.

Boys' lower primaries were 242 Local Fund schools with 8,728 pupils, 181 aided with 6,102 pupils, and 50 unaided with 1,318 pupils, total 473 schools with 16,148 pupils, against 394 schools with 13,445 pupils, a gain of 79 schools and 2,703 pupils.

	1885-86.	1886-87.
North Sylhet	78	88
Sunámganj	53	66
Habiganj	90	100
South Sylhet	74	100
Karimganj	99	119
Total	394	473

Muhammadans attended much better than in the preceding year. There were reading in boys' primary schools 5,258 (in lower primaries 4,966, in upper primaries 292) Musalman children, against 4,481 in the preceding year. I regret I have not statistics for separating the figures for last year.

The reward system for the payment of *gurus* has been extended to the majority of schools in Sylhet, and, on the whole, has met with considerable success. The Deputy-Inspector advocates replacing the combined system of fixed monthly pay supplemented by rewards by payments wholly depending on rewards, and he kept this principle steadily in mind throughout the year. Comparing the figures for Sylhet with those for the preceding year, we find that there is only one school more getting fixed pay, while the aided schools, *i.e.*, those supported by payments by results alone, have risen from 116 to 181, and also that the unaided, or expectant, schools have risen from 37 to 50. This, I think, bears out the Deputy-Inspector's remark on this subject, which is—

"Whatsoever the people not so closely connected with educational matters as we are may say to the contrary, I am justified in saying that payments by the result system has not been a failure in Sylhet."

61. *Khási and Jaintia Hills.*—There are no upper primary schools in these hills. Boys' lower primaries were 107 with 2,505 pupils, against 96 schools with 2,366 pupils, showing a gain of 11 schools and 139 pupils. The percentage of daily attendance was, however, very low, being only 61 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly, compared with 72 per cent. for all lower primary schools in the

	1885-86.	1886-87.
Khási Hills	70	75
Jaintia "	26	32
Total	96	107

Province. The low percentage of daily attendance is not, I believe, entirely due to boys being irregular in attending school, but rather to the fact that when a pupil leaves a school, his name is retained for months on the rolls in the hopes that he may possibly return. This swells the roll number, and diminishes the percentage of daily attendance.

62. *Gáro Hills.*—Boys' lower primaries under the Mission were, on the 31st March, 30 with 398 pupils, against 31 with 401 pupils; under the Deputy-Commissioner, 2 schools with 24 pupils, against 4 schools with 47 pupils, total 32 schools with 422 pupils, against 35 schools with 448 pupils. The Mission reports that 18 new schools were started during the year, but from different causes these were all closed again. Two of the schools under the Deputy-Commissioner were closed. On looking at the figures for the two existing schools, I find that the number of pupils is entered as 24, while the average monthly number on the rolls of these two schools is entered as 71. I feel confident that there is some mistake here, that perhaps the number of pupils for the two abolished schools has been included; in fact, there is no other reasonable explanation. The statistics, as they stand, show that there was on an average 35 boys monthly in each of these schools, whereas 13 is about the average for the schools in these hills.

63. *Goálpára.*—Boys' upper primary schools were 18 aided with 530 pupils, against 13 with 465 pupils, a gain of 5 schools and 65 pupils. At the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination 4 schools sent up 11 examinees, and three schools were successful, passing 10 candidates, a brilliant result for the schools concerned, but a miserable one for the district. The total cost of these schools came to Rs. 3,351, of which Rs. 1,318, or nearly 39 per cent. was borne by the public.

Boys' lower primaries were 118 Local Fund schools with 2,585 pupils, 7 aided schools with 212 pupils, and 6 unaided schools with 96 pupils: total 131 schools with 2,893 pupils, against 126 schools with 3,081 pupils, a gain of 5 schools with a loss of 188 pupils. The 7 aided schools were, 6 under the Gáro Mission with 133 pupils, and one in the Sonthal Colony with 79 pupils. Regarding these schools, the Deputy-Inspector writes—

	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sadr	68	69
Goálpára	58	62
Total	126	131

"The boys of the first class of the Sonthal Colony School are now reading the lower primary scholarship course, and have made decided progress. No improvement has been noticed in the Gáro Mission schools."

Regarding the subsidised *páthsálas*, my *locum tenens* suggested that they should be done away with, and the stipendiaries transferred to middle schools. In accordance with this suggestion, seven of the ten subsidised schools were closed, or rather ordinary *páthsálas* started in their place, and the stipendiaries removed to middle schools. The remaining three subsidised schools, located in the Eastern Duárs, were retained, as there are no middle schools in those parts. The Deputy-Inspector regards the closing of these subsidised schools as one of the causes for the falling off in the number of pupils. The teachers, being well paid, did not levy fees, while the *gurus* of *páthsálas* started in their place do so, which, he says, reduced the number attending these schools. This, and the general unhealthiness of the year, I consider account for the decrease. The system of payment by results, combined with a small fixed pay, has been generally adopted in this district. In the sadr the scheme succeeded fairly well, but in Goálpára sub-division it was not a success. Its failure here may, I think, be attributed to irregularity in holding examinations for rewards and delay in paying rewards earned.

64. *Kámrúp.*—Boys' upper primary schools were 14 (2 aided and 12 Local Board) with 690 pupils, against 13 schools (2 aided and 11 Local Board) with 560 pupils, a gain of one school and 130 pupils. Thirteen schools sent up 52 examinees to the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination. All these schools were successful, and passed 32 candidates, a good district result, showing that, with the exception of one school, all were efficient. The total cost came to Rs. 2,492, of which Rs. 910, or 36 per cent., was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primary schools were 269 (268 Local Board and 1 unaided) with 7,424 pupils, against 248 (243 Local Board and 5 unaided) with 6,840 pupils, a gain of 21 schools, and 584 pupils. Of the 269 schools, 233 were carried on under the combined system of pay and rewards, the 36 exempted schools were for special races or situated in backward localities. The Reward Rules have been very successful in this district, which was due, in no small measure, to the care the Deputy-Inspector took in seeing that they were properly administered.

	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sadr	198	213
Barpeta	50	56
Total	248	269

65. *Darrang.*—The Local Board upper primary school at Khagrabari closed during the year, and a grant-in-aid was given to Kurua in October. The number of

schools was, therefore, 5 as in the preceding year, but the pupils increased from 160 to 210. Two schools competed at the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination, and were successful. They sent up 14 examinees, of whom 12 passed, a good result for the schools concerned. The total expenditure on these schools came to Rs. 1,217, of which Rs. 672, or 55 per cent., was covered by receipts.

There were 109 (90 Local Fund and 19 departmental) boys' schools with 2,720 pupils, against 102 (80 Local Board, 20 departmental, and 2 unaided) boys' schools with 2,730 pupils in the preceding year, a gain of 7 schools, but a loss of 10 pupils. The two unaided schools mentioned in last year's report closed, this caused a loss of 50 pupils. The departmental schools for Kacharis under the Mission show a loss of 12 pupils, but the Local Fund schools a gain of 52 pupils. This accounts for the decrease. Regarding the low attendance in Mangaldai the Deputy-Inspector writes:—

	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sadr.	41	48
Mangaldai	61	61
Total.....	102	109

"There was a great falling off in attendance in the sub-division of Mangaldai, caused by the introduction of the Assamese language in our middle-class schools, in which the boys who wanted to learn their mother language can now take admission."

On referring to the statistics of the 3 middle schools in that sub-division, I find that there were 221 pupils attending them, against 206 in the preceding year, showing a gain of only 15 pupils. His statement, which passed unchallenged by the Local Board, cannot be supported by figures, and does not, therefore, bear any weight.

With the exception of Kachari schools and others specially exempted by the Local Boards, the system based on a small fixed pay supplemented by payments by results has been introduced, but has not been very successful. When I inspected the accounts during the cold weather, I was generally dissatisfied with the manner in which the scheme had been carried out, and, no doubt, its want of success was in some degree, at least, due to bad management.

The following table shows the principal details of the lower primary schools (boys and girls) under the Kachari Mission for the last two years:—

	Number of schools.	Number on rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Expenditure. From Government.	Expenditure. Other sources.	Expenditure. Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. Government.	Cost of educating each pupil. Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1885-86. Boys ...	20	274	268	198	917	90	1,007	3 7 4	3 12 9
1885-86. Girls ...	1	26	24	20	90	...	90	3 12 6	3 12 6
Total 1885-86...	21	300	292	218	1,007	90	1,097	3 7 2	3 12 1
1886-87. Boys ...	19	262	248	198	742	127	869	2 15 10	3 8 1
1886-87. Girls ...	1	29	32	26	90	100	190	2 13 0	5 15 0
Total 1886-87...	20	291	280	224	832	227	1,059	2 15 7	3 12 6

66. *Nowgong.*—The aided boys' upper primary schools were 11 with 547 pupils, against 10 with 569 pupils, a gain of one school but a loss of 22 pupils. The average number on the rolls monthly was 531, against 502, and the daily attendance 405, against 384, which seems to point out that the decrease on the 31st March was due to some special local cause. Ten schools competed at the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination, and were all successful. They sent up 66 candidates, of whom 42 passed, a good district result. The total expenditure on these schools came to Rs. 1,874, of which Rs. 593, or 31 per cent., was covered by receipts.

The Local Fund boys' lower primary schools were 130 with 4,060 pupils, against 127 with 3,948 pupils, and 3 unaided with 88 pupils, against 6 with 130 pupils: total 133 schools with 4,148 pupils, against 133 with 4,078, a gain of 70 pupils. Eight of the Local Fund schools with 163 pupils were for Mikirs under the administration of the American Mission, against 11 with 183 pupils in the preceding year. The Deputy-Inspector reported that all the schools suffered much from a bad outbreak of cholera during the year, that many schools had to be closed for months on account of the high floods, and that for the same cause the daily attendance in some schools with between 60 and 70 names on the rolls fell for months to between 10 and 12. Of the 133 boys' schools

67 are maintained on fixed pay supplemented by payments by results, the remaining 66 schools have been exempted, being either for special sections of the people, or situated in backward localities. The scheme worked fairly well on the whole, and the Deputy-Inspector thinks the system will in time work well.

67. *Sibságar.*—Boys' upper primary schools were 12 (2 Local Board and 10 aided) with 456 pupils, against 11 (2 Local Board and 9 aided) with 560 pupils in the preceding year, a gain of one school, but a loss of 104 pupils. Ten schools competed at the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination, and 8 were successful. The 10 schools sent up 36 examinees, of whom 16 passed. The total cost of these schools came to Rs. 2,049, of which Rs. 705, or 34 per cent., was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primary schools were 179 (176 Local Board and 3 unaided) with 5,137 pupils, against 164 (157 Local Board and 7 unaided) with 4,802 pupils, a gain of 15 schools and 335 pupils. The district report does not state the number of schools that were placed under the Reward Rules, nor does it give any account of how the system worked. When I was in the district in the cold weather, I found that there had been general mismanagement in the administration of the Reward Rules.

	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sadr	54	60
Jorhát	63	70
Golághát	47	49
	164	179

68. *Lakhimpur.*—The number of boys' upper primary schools was six, as in the preceding year, but the pupils fell from 268 to 213. Two schools competed at the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination, sending up 10 examinees. Both schools were successful, passing five candidates, none of these were eligible for scholarships. The total cost of these schools came to Rs. 1,229, of which Rs. 549, or 44 per cent., was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primary schools were 81 (78 Local Board and 3 unaided) with 1,949 pupils, against 80 (71 Local Board and 9 unaided) with 1,791, a gain of one school and 158 pupils. The number of schools under the Reward Rules has not been given in the district report; generally the system did not work well. The Deputy-Inspector says that the system encourages good *gurus* in favourable localities, but discourages those in remote and backward places. There is no doubt that there has been great mismanagement in administering the rules, which chiefly accounts for the want of success of the scheme.

	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sadr	49	50
North Lakhimpur.....	31	31
Total	80	81

69. *Nága Hills.*—Primary education in these hills is partly under the Deputy-Commissioner and partly under the American Mission. Under the former was the Barpathar School, attended by 17 pupils. The statistical returns from the Secretary to the American Mission have not been received. In a letter he reported that all the schools in his charge were closed for a good part of the year; but I see from the abstract register of attendance submitted by him for March that there were five schools (boys' and girls') then at work, attended by 97 Nága children, with a daily attendance for that month of 77; that of these 18 boys and 6 girls can read, the remainder are in the alphabet stage.

SECTION V.—School Education, Special.

70. Under this head are included (*a*) Normal Schools and (*b*) the Artizan School at Jorhát, maintained from the interest of the Williamson Trust Fund.

Normal schools.

71. The following table shows the particulars of the normal schools for the year under report:—

District.		Number of institutions.	Number of pupils. On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. To Government. Rs.	As.	P.	Total. Rs.	As.	P.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.						
Departmental.....	Sylhet	1	35	32	29	1,106	973	2,079	64	15	6		15	6
	Khási Hills	1	41	38	31	4,216	....	4,273	110	15	2	112	7	2
	Kámrúp	1	43	42	32	3,953	597	4,552	108	5	4	108	6	1
	Darrang	2	63	49	42	1,544	786	2,491	46	8	6	50	13	5
	Nowgong	1	19	22	18	312	405	717	32	9	5	32	9	5
	Sibságar	1	25	16	11	1,004	558	1,562	97	10	0	97	10	0
	Lakhimpur	1	17	17	15	936	615	1,551	91	3	9	91	3	9
	Total	8	243	216	178	13,071	3,884	17,225	78	7	11	79	11	11
Local Fund	Cachar	3	65	65	45	....	2,555	2,555	39	4	11	39	4	11
	Darrang	1	9	10	9	....	746	746	74	9	7	74	9	7
	Total	4	74	75	54	....	3,301	3,301	44	0	3	44	0	3
Aided Mission	Gáro Hills.....	1	65	58	36	1,444	....	2,354	24	14	4	40	9	5
Grand Total		13	382	349	268	14,515*	7,185	22,880*	62	2	10	65	8	11

* Rs. 363, expended on the abolished Normal School at Kohima under the American Mission, have not been included in this table.

Including the classes attached to the middle Vernacular school, Nowgong, as a departmental school and the Sunday training class at Hailákándi as a Local Fund school, the departmental and Local Fund schools were respectively 8 and 4, as in the preceding year. The aided Mission school at Kohima was gradually getting worse and worse, and finally collapsed in September last, so under aided schools there only remains the Mission school at Tura, which teaches from the elementary stage, all pupils attending the school being classed as normal school pupils, though only a moiety of them will ever go out as teachers. The percentage of daily attendance for all normal schools on the average number on the rolls monthly was nearly 74 per cent., distributed to departmental schools 82 per cent., to Local Fund schools 72 per cent., and to the Mission school at Tura 62 per cent., against 79, 82, 74, and 79 per cent. for the preceding year. The large falling off in numbers attending the Tura School is attributed to a private English school started during the year at that station, which drew away most of the day scholars. The district report does not mention anything about such a school, nor has the Sub-Inspector included it in the statistical returns. This does not account for the daily attendance falling from 79 to 62 per cent. of the average roll number. The absence of day scholars should tend rather to increase the percentage of daily attendance than diminish it. For all schools the average cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 65-8-11, against Rs. 59-9-7, an increase of Rs. 5-15-4. The increase is chiefly due to the district of Darrang, where the average number on the rolls monthly of the two departmental schools fell from 83 to 49, thus raising the cost of educating each pupil in these two schools from Rs. 27-5-7 to Rs. 50-13-3. Of this no explanation has been given.

Normal School Certificate Examinations.

72. The following table give the results of the Normal School Examinations for pupils in these schools, with an abstract for the year 1885-86 :—

	Vernacular mastership certificate.						Primary school mastership certificate.				
	1st grade.		2nd grade.		3rd grade.			Number passed in			
	Number of candidates.	Number passed.	Number of candidates.	Number passed.	Number of candidates.	Number passed.	Number of candidates.	First grade.	Second grade.	Total number passed in 1886-87.	Total number passed in 1885-86.
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	14	2	16	4
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	8	8	10	8	...	16	13
Cherra Punji	1	1	5	3	8	3	10	10	...	17	11
Goálpára subsidised classes ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	2	1	...	1	2
Gauháti	5	4	10	9	11	9	17	2	...	24	12
Mangaldai	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	3	1
Tezpur departmental ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	3	...	3	5
Ditto Kachari	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	3	...	3	5
Sibságar	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	4	...	4	2
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	...	3	4
Total	6	5	15	12	27	20	109	51	2	90	59

On the whole there is considerable improvement, 90 pupils, against 59 in the preceding year, having gained certificates; but some of the schools did very badly, amongst these are the following:—The Gauháti *guru* class sent up 17 pupils but only two passed; the Tezpur School sent up 15 pupils (12 from the Government and 3 from the Mission school) only 3 passed, and these were from the Government school. The class attached to the Nowgong middle Vernacular school sent up 11 pupils, only 3 passed; Sibságar and Dibrugarh normal schools respectively sent up 8 and 7 pupils,

but only 4 and 3 passed, and the subsidised schools in Goálpára only sent up 2 pupils, of whom one passed. The general excuse for want of success is that the boys who come into our normal schools are not up to the mark. This, no doubt, may have some influence on the results, but I cannot accept it as the real cause.

Departmental Examination for teachers and pandits in Government Schools

73. The Teachership Examination was held in the end of March, simultaneously with the Entrance Examination. Two teachers from departmental high schools and six pandits appeared, the two teachers and one pandit passed. Considering that the future prospects of teachers and pandits depend so much on passing this examination, it is a matter of surprise that so few put in an appearance at the examination.

Williamson Artizan School, Jorhat

74. The number on the rolls of the Williamson Artizan School on the 31st March was 23, with an average monthly roll number of 22, and a daily attendance of 15, or 67 per cent., which is very low for a technical school The sanctioned allotment for scholarships is Rs. 90 per month, which was distributed as follows:—Six stipendiaries at Rs. 6 each, six at Rs. 5 each, and six at Rs. 4 each. On the representation of the Manager, the Chief Commissioner in June 1887 sanctioned a revised distribution as follows:—That, as before, there are to be six stipendiaries on Rs. 6 and six on Rs. 5 each per mensem, entailing an estimated expenditure of Rs. 66 per month, that the balance, Rs. 24, may be distributed in small stipends by the Manager of the Jorhát State Railway, who is in charge of the school, as circumstances may require. There are now 20 boys getting stipends, six at Rs 6, six at Rs. 5, five at Rs. 3, and three at Rs. 2 each per month. There are also 2 pupils studying in the mechanical class of the Sibpur Engineering College on stipends of Rs. 15 per month. The school is undoubtedly making considerable progress under the management of Mr. Smart, Manager of the Jorhát State Railway. The expenditure on the school came to Rs. 1,733, thus, the cost of educating each pupil came to Rs 87-13-10. The following abstract shows the expenditure from the Williamson Fund for the year under report:—

	Rs.
Pay of Manager	1,100
,, ,, Pandit	110
Scholarships in the Artizan School, Jorhát	723
,, in Sibpur Engineering College	317
Repairs of school-houses, &c.	599
Total	2,849

SECTION VI.—FEMALE EDUCATION.

Comparison of girls' schools for the past two years

75. The changes that occurred during the year in girls' schools are shown in the following table:—

	1885-86.			1886-87.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.
Aided Middle Vernacular	3	87	29	4	123	30
Local Fund Upper Primary	1	23	23	1	26	26
Aided ditto ditto	1	36	36	1	24	24
Lower Primary—						
Departmental	1	26	26	1	29	29
Local Fund	104	1,537	14	104	1,609	15
Aided	42	818	20	47	1,025	21
Unaided	26	328	12	12	182	15
Total	178	2,885	16	170	3,018	17

The above shows that there has been a loss of 8 schools, but a gain of 133 pupils; the falling off was due to the unaided schools, which diminished from 26 to 12, while the aided increased by 1 middle and 5 lower primary.

District statistics of girls' schools.

76. The following table gives the distribution of girls' schools and the principal details:—

I.—Secondary (Middle Vernacular) Schools for Females.

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils. On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Expenditure. From the State. Provincial.	Local and Municipal.	Other sources.	Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. To Government.	To the public.	Total.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
AIDED—											
Khasi Hills	1	28	20	16	....	120	393	513	6 0 0	19 10 5	25 10 5
Sibságar	2	60	60	36	....	975	161	1,136	16 4 0	2 10 11	18 14 11
Lakhimpur	1	35	25	21	....	540	113	653	21 9 7	4 8 4	26 1 11
Total Aided Middle Vernacular Schools..	4	123	105	73	....	1,635	667	2,302	15 9 1	6 5 8	21 14 9

II.—Upper Primary Schools for Females.

District.	Number of institutions.	On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Provincial.	Local and Municipal.	Other sources.	Total.	To Government.	To the public.	Total.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL—											
Darrang	1	26	34	33	....	108	65	173	3 2 10	1 14 7	5 1 5
AIDED—											
Goálpara	1	24	28	15	....	120	224	344	4 4 7	8 0 0	12 4 7
Grand Total of Upper Primary Schools..	2	50	62	48	....	228	289	517	3 10 10	4 10 7	8 5 5

III.—Lower Primary Schools for Females.

District.	Number of institutions.	On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Provincial.	Local and Municipal.	Other sources.	Total.	To Government.	To the public.	Total.
DEPARTMENTAL—											
Darrang	1	29	32	26	90	....	100	190	2 13 0	3 2 0	5 15 0
Total Departmental Schools	1	29	32	26	90	....	100	190	2 13 0	3 2 0	5 15 0
LOCAL FUND AND MUNICIPAL—											
Cachar	1	11	11	6	....	135	....	135	12 4 4	.....	12 4 4
Sylhet	65	897	878	668	....	2,655	22	2,677	3 0 5	0 0 5	3 0 10
Goalpára	4	70	62	38	....	163	69	232	2 10 1	1 1 10	3 11 11
Kamrúp	10	238	235	182	....	725	2	727	3 1 4	0 0 2	3 1 6
Darrang	6	82	87	52	....	184	....	184	2 1 10	.....	2 1 10
Nowgong	6	129	134	98	....	460	163	623	3 6 11	1 3 6	4 10 5
Sibsagar	11	161	151	116	....	703	....	703	4 10 6	.....	4 10 6
Lakhimpur	1	21	23	13	....	77	....	77	3 5 7	.....	3 5 7
Total Local and Municipal Schools....	104	1,609	1,581	1,123	....	5,102	256	5,358	3 3 8	0 2 7	3 6 3
AIDED—											
Sylhet	31	547	497	389	....	561	130	691	1 2 1	0 4 2	1 6 3
Khasi Hills	15	445	401	250	595	....	1,486	2,081	1 7 9	3 11 4	5 3 1
Goálpara	1	33	33	16	....	81	84	165	2 7 3	2 8 9	5 0 0
Total Aided Schools	47	1,025	931	655	595	642	1,700	2,937	1 5 2	1 13 3	3 2 5
Ditto of Departmental, Local, and Aided Schools	152	2,663	2,541	1,804	685	5,744	2,056	8,485	2 8 5	0 12 11	3 5 4
Ditto ditto of 1885-86 ..	147	2,411	2,322	1,663	865	5,574	2,757	9,196	2 12 4	1 3 0	3 15 4
UNAIDED—											
Sylhet	11	154	150	127	Money return not given						
Garo Hills	1	28	25	25	....	....	122	122	.....	4 14 1	4 14 1
Total Unaided Schools..	12	182	175	152	....	....	122	122	.....	4 14 1	4 14 1
Grand Total Department Local Aided and Unaided Lower Primary Schools.	164	2,845	2,719	1,956	685	5,744	2,178	8,607	2 8 0	0 13 7	3 5 7
Ditto ditto of 1885-86..	173	2,739	2,627	1,924	865	5,574	2,852	9,291	2 7 3	1 1 4	3 8 7

I visited the four middle schools during the year, and found that, with the exception of one girl in the Bengali Girls' School at Shillong, all the girls were in the lower primary stage. This girl passed the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination, and was placed in the second division. The total expenditure on these schools came to Rs. 2,302, of which Rs. 667, or 28 per cent., was borne by the public. Excluding the Shillong School, only 15 per cent. of the expenditure on the other three was covered by subscriptions. The Local Boards have been much too liberal in their grants to these so-called middle schools.

The girls' upper primary schools were two, as in the preceding year. The number on the rolls on the 31st March was 50, against 59; but the average number on the rolls monthly and the daily attendance shows an improvement, the figures being 62 and 48, against 56 and 36 respectively, for the year 1885-86.

The total expenditure, as shown by the district returns, came to Rs. 517, of which Rs. 289, or 55 per cent., was borne by the public. The expenditure from Local Funds on the Tezpur Girls' School is entered at Rs. 108. When I visited this school in March,

I found that the School had a grant of Rs. 9 per month from the allotment for upper primary schools, and Rs. 9 from that for lower primary schools, so, unless there has been arrears, the expenditure on this school from Local Funds should be Rs. 216 and not Rs. 108. Lower primary schools for girls were 164 with 2,845 pupils, against 173 schools with 2,739 pupils in 1885-86, a decrease of nine schools but an increase of 106 pupils. The aided schools in Darrang and Sibságar were closed; from the two in the Nága Hills returns have not been received, so they had to be excluded. The unaided schools in Darrang and Nowgong probably closed, as returns have not been submitted for them. Excluding the unaided schools, the total expenditure on girls' lower primary schools came to Rs. 8,485, of which Rs. 2,056, or 24 per cent., was borne by the public, against a total expenditure of Rs. 9,196, of which Rs. 2,757, or near 29 per cent., was borne by the public in the preceding year. In 1885-86, out of Rs. 2,757 subscribed by the public, the Welsh Mission in the Khási Hills contributed Rs. 1,565, and in 1886-87 they contributed Rs. 1,486 out of Rs. 2,056, leaving the net sums subscribed by the people of the Province towards aided female lower primary education for these years to be Rs. 1,192 and Rs. 570 respectively, a miserable pittance for the year under report, showing how little interest the people in general take in the education of their girls. The Babus in Shillong subscribed Rs. 393 towards their girls' middle school, and at Dhubri Rs. 224 was subscribed by the people there towards the girls' upper primary school. The people of these two stations, therefore, subscribed Rs. 617 towards their two schools, or Rs. 47 more than the people of the whole Province did towards aided girls' lower primary schools.

Number of girls in boys' schools.

77. The following table shows the number of girls reading in boys' schools for each district :—

	Secondary.	Primary.	Special.	Total.
Cachar	1	151	.....	152
Sylhet	.....	766	.....	766
Khási Hills	48	553	9	610
Gáro „	.....	16	.....	16
Goálpára	1	172	.....	173
Kámrúp	.....	331	.....	331
Darrang	.....	15	.....	15
Nowgong	.....	87	.....	87
Sibságar	.....	282	.....	282
Lakhimpur	.....	30	.....	30
Total	50	2,403	9	2,462
Corresponding numbers last year	37	1,850	10	1,897

The above shows that the number of girls in boys' schools increased by 565, or by 29 per cent. In the year 1884-85, there were only 989 girls reading in boys' schools, on the 31st March last 2,462. The great increase is, I believe, due to the rule, sanctioned in July 1885, allowing teachers of boys' primary schools to draw four annas for each girl attending their schools in all districts, except the Gáro Hills, the Khási and Jaintia Hills, and the Nága Hills, where lump sums are given to missionary bodies for general education.

Stage of instruction of pupils in girls' schools.

78. General Table V. gives the full details under this head. Out of 123 girls in girls' middle schools, 111 were in the lower primary and 12 in the upper primary stage. Of the 2,895 pupils in girls' primary schools, 2,588 were girls' and of these 2,580 were in the lower primary stage, 7 in the upper primary stage, and one in the middle stage. The 307 boys at these schools are mere infants, and were in the lower primary stage.

Scholarship examinations for all girls' schools.

79. One girl from the Bengali Girls' School, Shillong, passed the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination, and was placed in the second division. None of the girls' schools sent up examinees for the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination. The result of the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination, as far as girls' schools were concerned, is shown in the subjoined table:—

District	Number of primary schools sending candidates.	Number of candidates who competed.	Number of schools from which candidates passed.	Number of candidates who were passed.				
				In the first division.	In the second division.	In the third division.	Total.	Number of scholarships awarded.
Sylhet	2	2	2	2	...	...	2	2
Khási and Jaintia Hills.	5	22	4	13	1	...	14	3
Kámrúp	1	2	1	...	...	1	1	1
Nowgong	1	4	.....	...	...	...	...	.....
Sibságar	1	1	.....	...	...	...	...	.....
Lakhimpur	2	4	2	2	2	...	4	1
Total	12	35	9	17	3	1	21	7

Classification of pupils in girls' schools according to religion.

80. Classified according to religion, the pupils in girls' schools (boys and girls) stood as follows:—

Girls.	Number on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.		Muhammadans.		Others.	
		Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Middle schools ...	123	104	84·55	8	6·51	11	8·94
Primary schools ..	2,895	1,954	67·49	325	11·23	616	21·28
Total	3,018	2,058	68·19	333	11·03	627	20·78

It must be remembered that of these 3,018 pupils, 307 were boys, so that the number of girls in these schools was 2,711. Adding to this 2,462, the number of girls in boys' schools, we find that there were 5,173 girls attending school, against 4,592 in 1885-86.

Higher education of girls.

81. The scheme for providing for the higher education of girls in the Province of Assam, by giving them scholarships to read in the Bethune School at Calcutta, has not borne much fruit. Only one girl, the one mentioned in last year's report as having passed the upper primary scholarship at Nowgong, has accepted the offer, and she is now reading in the Bethune School, Calcutta, with a scholarship of Rs. 20 per month, in addition to her upper primary scholarship of Rs. 3 per mensem.

Sylhet Union.

82. The Sylhet Union held its annual examination in the beginning of the year under report, 415 candidates competed, of whom 368 were passed. The following table shows the particulars of the examination for the last two years:—

Year.	Number of applicants for examination.	Number that competed.	Number passed in				Passed from	
			1st division.	2nd division.	3rd division.	Total.	Zenana.	Schools.
1886-87 ...	763	415	220	119	29	368	130	238
1885-86 ...	701	477	197	133	63	383	200	183

To the successful candidates prizes amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 275 were awarded. The following is an abstract of receipts and expenditure:—

Receipts.

	Rs.
Donation	190
Local Fund grants	170
Subscriptions from members ...	58
Other items	30
Total	448

Expenditure.

	Rs.
Prizes	275
Printing charges	56
Miscellaneous	150
Total	481

There are over 300 members, so a subscription of Rs. 58 from them, or a little over 3 annas each, seems very small.

SECTION VII.—EDUCATION OF SPECIAL CLASSES.

(a) *European and Eurasian.*

83. The Boys' European and Eurasian School at Shillong was closed in December 1886 on financial grounds: in lieu of it the Chief Commissioner sanctioned two scholarships of Rs. 15 each per month, tenable for three years at one of the Darjeeling or other approved hill schools, for boys reading in the mixed school at Shillong on their reaching 11 years of age, and, further, to prevent hardship attending the abolition of the boys' school, the Chief Commissioner granted similar scholarships to 8 boys who were in the school when it was closed. Six of these boys are now in St. Paul's, and the other two in St. Joseph's Seminary, Darjeeling. The expenditure on the boys' school came to Rs. 7,659, of which Rs. 3,373, or nearly 45 per cent., was covered by receipts from fees. The girls' school re-opened on the 1st March as a mixed school, with the proviso that boys on reaching 11 years of age should not be retained in the school, after the close of the session in which they reached that age. The following table gives the particulars of the Girls' School, Shillong, for the last two years:—

School.		Roll number on 31st March.	Average roll number monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Total expenditure.				Cost of educating each pupil.		
					Provincial.	Fees.	Other sources.	Total.	To the State.	Fees and other sources.	Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Shillong Girls'	1886 87..	13	12	10	3,863*	2,969	...	6,832*	321 14 8	247 6 8	569 5 4
	1885 86..	10	18	18	2,865	3,005	500	6,370	159 2 8	194 11 7	353 14 3

*Includes Rs 283 spent by Public Works Department on repairs to the school building.

The school is classed as a secondary school, teaching up to and including the VII. standard, as defined in the Code for European and Eurasian Schools. On the 31st March there were no pupils reading higher than the IV. standard.

Financial state of Shillong Girls' School.

84. The following statement shows the financial state of the school for the year under report:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	Amount.	Total.		Amount.	Total.
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Balance in hand on 1st April 1886.	.....	593 14 11	Establishment charges	4,316 15 6	... .
			Boarding charges	1,872 13 3	.....
Government grant for 1886-87.	2,800 0 0	.....	Medical	168 4 0	.....
Ditto special grant	780 0 0	.....	Municipal tax	150 0 0	.....
Fees	2,619 4 8	6,199 4 8	Miscellaneous	41 2 0	6,549 2 9
			Balance.....	....	244 0 10
Total	.....	6,793 3 7	Total.....	.....	6,793 3 7

Unlike similar statements in reports of former years, every item of expenditure that fell due in the month of March, and every receipt, has been brought to account, so that the above shows the actual state of affairs for the year under report. The expenditure for March, which became due on the 1st April, will, as usual, be included in the returns for the year 1887-88. The total expenditure came to Rs. 6,549, of which Rs. 2,619, or just 40 per cent., was met from fees. The school is in a critical stage, and it is under consideration can it be maintained on its present footing.

(*b*) *Muhammadan Education.*

85. I have little more to remark about this class of the community, beyond what has already been stated in the foregoing sections. I will, however, for easy reference, give a brief excerpt of what has been done :—

(1) All Muhammadan boys who pass the Entrance Examination and are otherwise eligible, receive junior scholarships of the value of Rs. 20 from schools in the Brahmaputra Valley, and Rs. 15 from schools in the Surma Valley. On passing the F. A. Examination, senior scholarships of the same amount are granted to them.

(2) In Sylhet, where the Musalman population is slightly in excess, out of six Sub-Inspectors, three are Muhammadans.

(3) In all departmental high schools, as soon as the numbers of Musalman pupils reach 30, a Maulvi is appointed.

(4) Special rules have been framed for giving aid to *maktabs* under the system of payments by results, the subjects for examination for each district being fixed in consultation with the Maulvis of these schools, but not a single *maktab* in the Province has competed for these rewards.

(5) From the Mohsin Fund we are allowed to spend up to Rs. 800 per annum for Muhammadan education in the Sylhet Government High School. On the 31st March there were seven Mohsin scholars on Rs. 3 per month, and 20 boys received from the same fund two-thirds of their fees. The following shows the expenditure from the Fund for the year under report :—

	Rs.
Part pay of Maulvis	264
Scholarships	254
Two-third schooling fees	222
Prizes	8
Total	748

Phulbari Madrasa in Sylhet.

86. The Phulbari Madrasa in Sylhet, endowed by the late Maulvi Azir Uddin Ahmed of Phulbari, had 73 on its rolls on the 31st March, against 146 on the corresponding day of the preceding year. The cause of this extraordinary falling off is attributed to the distress caused by the high floods of 1886, on account of which many of the people about Phulbari stopped *jagir*, *i.e.*, declined to board and lodge the pupils gratis. The average daily attendance was, however, 100, against 106 in the preceding year. The instruction is confined to Persian and Arabic. The Deputy-Inspector remarks that no arithmetic or, in fact, any useful subject is taught. The total cost of the Madrasa came to Rs. 210, being the amount of rents collected during the year under report from the lands assigned for its maintenance.

SECTION VIII.—PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

District statistics of private schools.

87. The following table shows the distribution of private schools:—

District.	Advanced teaching.						Elementary, teaching a vernacular only or mainly.										Other schools not conforming to departmental standards.		Total.	
	Arabic or Persian.		Sanskrit tols.		Any other oriental classic.		Teaching a vernacular only or mainly.				Elementary tols.		Elementary *maktabs*.							
							Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.			
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Cachar	1	70	..	..	..	..	1	25	..	..	..	..	9	302	..	..	..	..	11	397
Sylhet	29	560	37	544	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102	1,758	..	..	..	..	168	2,862
Goalpara	..	..	1	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	21
Kamrup	..	..	38	759	..	..	3	71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	73	45	903
Darrang	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	18
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	46	1	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	60
Sibsagar	..	..	2	35	..	..	3	59	..	..	..	..	1	18	..	..	2	313	8	425
Lakhimpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	30	..	..	..	..	3	23	..	..	3	27	8	140
Total	30	630	78	1,359	..	..	11	291	1	14	1	18	115	2,101	..	..	9	413	245	4,826

Comparing this with the similar table in paragraph 102 of last year's report, we find that the schools have fallen from 503 to 245, and the pupils from 7,795 to 4,826. The

decrease is, I believe, only nominal, as these schools are by no means permanent, most of them opening and closing at will of the teacher, and there is no doubt that the table is by no means exhaustive. The eleven schools classed as elementary, teaching a vernacular only or mainly, are schools started with the ultimate hope of obtaining Government aid in some form or other. Of the 9 schools for boys not conforming to departmental standards the three in Lakhimpur are Khampti schools; the two in Sibságar English schools: of the four in Kámrúp, one was an English school kept by a private gentleman to teach his children English, and the remaining three were Ganak schools, where horoscope-making is taught. As stated in paragraph 15, aid, based on the results of an examination, is offered to *tols* and *maktabs*, the precise standard for each district being determined by the Deputy-Inspector in consultation with the Pandits and Maulvis. During the year under report not a single *maktab* competed. Of the Kámrúp *tols*, 13 competed, sending up 37 examinees, of whom 30 passed in one or more subject, and rewards amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 220 were distributed to the Pandits of the successful schools. From Sylhet 5 *tols* competed, sending up 25 examinees, of whom 16 qualified, and rewards amounting to Rs. 164 were given to the Pandits of the successful *tols*, and prizes to the value of Rs. 30 to the successful candidates. I quite agree with Mr. Clarke's remarks concerning the Sylhet *maktabs*, that they can hardly be reckoned as an educational figure, and go even further, and say that the same applies to every elementary *maktab* in the Province.

SECTION IX.—Preparation and Distribution of Text-Books.

Supply of text books.

88. Assam depends chiefly on the agents of the Calcutta School Book Society for its supply of text-books. Out of 103 agents, as shown in its list for 1886, the latest received, 20 are in Assam. Since the publication of this list several more agencies have been started in Assam, but I regret to say I cannot give the exact number, as many of the district reports do not give the necessary information. The Assam agents are under the supervision of Deputy and Sub-Inspectors, who are responsible for seeing that the necessary supply of books is kept in stock. From reports received through various sources, I feel convinced that this important part of their work has as a rule been neglected; but I hope in next year's report to be able to state that these officers have looked after the agents, and that the necessary text-books were always available. I have also received many complaints that Assam authors are negligent in complying with indents from agents for the supply of text-books for schools. I do not see how I can well interfere in this matter, unless I strike the text-books of authors not making proper arrangements for their sales off the list of approved books. In the last few years, book-shops are being opened in all large bázárs by shopkeepers, so that in a few years there will be an adequate supply of text-books all over the Province.

Abolition of Assam Text-Book Committee

89. The Text-Book Committee for the examination of Assamese books was abolished in May under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 15th May 1886, so no books were examined during the year.

Rewards given.

90. The following is an abstract of payments made for rewards already promised, and for guarantees for the sale of a certain number of copies of works, which fell in during the year :—

Rewards.

Name of author.	Book.	Amount.
		Rs.
Munshi Hasmut Ullah, Goálpára	Geography of Assam	50
Babu Bhola Nath Dass, Nowgong.....	Chinta Tarangini, Part II.	125
Babu Jajnesvar Sarma, Sibságar	Kshetra Parichay	100
	Total.....	275

Sale Guarantees.

Babu Bhola Nath Das, Nowgong	Chinta Tarangini, Part I.	52
	Grand Total.....	327

List of text-books in Assam.

91. The following is the revised list of authorised Assamese text-books:—

LITERATURE.

[N.B.—Books marked * have not been published.]

[Books marked † out of print.]

	Name of book.	Author's name.	Where procurable.
1.	Laraputhi	Gunábhi Rám Baruá	Nowgong.
2.	Hitasádhiká	Padmábati Devi	Ditto.
3.	Assamia Larámitra	Gunábhi Rám Baruá	Ditto.
4.	Padyamálá	Padmaháns Gosvami	Ditto.
5.	Kávya Kusum	Gunabhi Rám Baruá	Ditto.
6.	Sikshá Sár	Padmaháns Gosvami	Ditto.
7.	Páthmálá	Hem Chandra Barua	Gauháti.
8.	Hitakatha, Parts I. and II.	Purna Kanta Sarma	Dibrugarh.
9.	Uijupáth*	Baladev Mahanta	Nowgong.
10.	Jnánánkur	Chandra Sekhar Baruá	North Gauháti.
11.	Nitikatha	Jajneshar Sarmá	Sibságar.
12.	Nitisár	Syad Taibulla	Gauháti.
13.	Jnánánkur, Parts I, II., and III.	Nara Náth Mahanta	Nowgong.
14.	Padyapath†	*Munshi Sakhawat Ali	Gauháti.
15.	Larábodh	Lambodar Bará	Kohima.
16.	Kabitámálá, Parts I. and II.	Bholá Náth Dás	Sibságar.
17.	Hitakathá	Jajneswar Sarmá	Ditto.
18.	Hitopades	Tulsi Rám Sarma	Nowgong.
19.	Chintá Tarangini, Parts I. and II.	Bholá Náth Dás	Sibságar.
20.	Jnánánkur	Purna Kánta Sarmá	Dibrugarh.
21.	Nitikathá	Bishnu Priyá Devi	Nowgong.
22.	Pratham Sikshá	Tulsi Rám Baruá	Ditto.
23.	Dvitiya Sikshá	Ditto	Ditto.
24.	Larápáth, Parts III.	Jay Chandra Chakravarti	Gauháti.
25.	Samayabarnan*	Chandra Sekhar Baruá	North Gauháti.
26.	Jnanamanjuri	Revánanda Pandit	Sibságar.
27.	Bisva Kánan*	Chandra Sikhar Baruá	North Gauháti.
28.	Saral Rachaná	Miss Svarna Lata Baruani	Nowgong.
		BIOGRAPHY.	
1.	Biography of the late Ananda Rám Dhekial Phukan.	Gunabhi Rám Baruá	Ditto.
2.	Nalopákhyán	Dharmesvar Házáriká	
3.	Sudharmar Upákhyan	Srimati Padmábati Devi Phukanani.	Nowgong.
		PRIMER.	
1.	Larádarsak	Munshi Yár Muhammad	Sibságar.
2.	Larapáth, Parts I. and II.	Jay Chandra Chakravarti	Gauháti.
3.	Adipáth, Parts I., II., & III.	Hem Chandra Baruá	Office, Inspector of Schools, Shillong.
4.	Lará Nijaputhi	Brajapathi Banerjee	Gauháti.
5.	Barnabodh, Parts I. and II.	Madhu Rám Dás	Nowgong.
6.	Larár Sárathi*	Mahendra Náth Phukan	Ditto.
7.	Third Book of Reading	Kali Rám Baruá	Gauháti.
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1.	Comparative Grammar*	Hem Chandra Baruá	Gauháti.
2.	Assamese Grammar	Ditto	Ditto.
3.	Assamia ditto	Dina Bandhu Tarkálankár	Tezpur.
4.	„ Larár Vyakaran	Hem Chandru Barua	Gauháti.
5.	Assamese Grammar	Dhormesvar Gosvámi	Nowgong.
6.	Asubodh Vyakaran	Náráyan Sarmá Vidyabhusan	Gauháti.
		ARITHMETIC.	
1.	Mental Arithmetic, Parts I. and II.	Mahim Chandra Chakravarti	Tezpur.
2.	Ganit Sástra	Purnánanda Sen	Nowgong.
3.	Byabahárik Maukhik Ganana	Rajani Kánta Chakravarti	Barpeta.
4.	Karyya Sikshá	Káli Rám Baruá	Gauháti.
5.	Ganan Pustak	Sakhawat Ali	Ditto.
6.	Ankapáth	Dibakar Sarmá	Sibságar.
7.	Mental Arithmetic*	Jajnesvar Sarmá	Ditto.
		HISTORY.	
1.	Brief History of Assam†	Lakshmi Rám Baruá	Gauháti.
2.	Assam Buranji	Gunábhi Rám Baruá	Nowgong.
3.	History of India, Parts I. and II.	Dharmesvar Gosvami	Ditto.
4.	Purábritta Sár*	Baladev Mahanta	Ditto.